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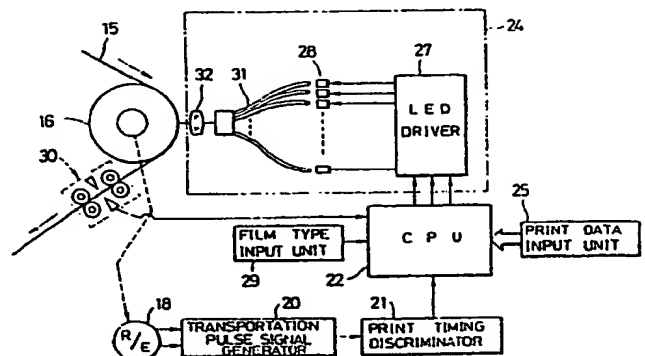
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54 Bar-code printing apparatus.

57 A bar code printing apparatus includes a rotary encoder for outputting encoder pulses in different two phases. A direction in which said film is transported is discriminated on the encoder pulses and indicated by a forward direction pulse indicating or a reverse direction pulse every predetermined length of transportation of the film. A direction discriminating circuit comprises a clock pulse generator for generating clock pulses on a frequency higher than that on which the encoder pulse is output, a first delay circuit for delaying slightly the clock pulse, a latch circuit for latching one of the encoder pulses in synchronism with the clock pulse to output a transportation signal; a second delay circuit for delaying the transportation signal; and two AND gates, each connected to said first and second delay circuits and said latch circuit, for outputting a forward direction pulse and a reverse direction pulse, respectively.

FIG. 1



## BAR-CODE PRINTING APPARATUS

### Background of the Invention

The present invention relates to a bar code printer by which a photosensitive product is provided with latent images of bar codes during the manufacture of the photographic product.

In the manufacture of photosensitive products such a photographic films or the like (which is hereinafter referred simply to as a film), it is usual to provide a film with latent images of bar codes indicating necessary information including frame numbers as well as of the frame numbers which are later photographically developed during the processing of the exposed film. The bar codes are automatically read by an optical reader or other bar code readers to provide information of the film. In particular, when printing extra prints from the film, bar code is automatically read to place a frame of the film of which a print is required in a printing position. The bar code is also printed on a print and used to identify the frame number of the film from which the print was made. If the bar code reader makes an error in reading the bar code of a customer's film, a printer automatically makes a print different from the customer's request. Accordingly, strict quality control should be maintained in printing bar-codes on films.

To indicate frame numbers by bar codes printed on a film, a DX bar code system which is heretofore used to indicate a manufacturer or the like, may be available to print a bar code indicating a frame number after a DX code on the film. However, because a frame number bar code after DX code needs a wide space, it often happens that frame number bar codes locate between adjacent frames and are divided separately when the film is cut to several strips. Because actually exposed frames are not always accurately located on the side of frame number bar codes, the wider the space occupied by each frame number bar code is, the higher the chances of cutting frame number bar codes becomes.

In the DX bar code system, the film is formed with notches in one margin thereof one for each exposed frame upon being processed. The notch is used to provide a timing signal in order to locate each frame in a proper exposure position of a printer upon making extra prints from the film. If the notch is formed in the film at a location where a frame number bar code is printed, it is hard to read the frame number bar code. Therefore, it is difficult to form notches in a film on which frame number bar codes are previously printed and automatically read upon making prints.

In view of the above, a superior printing system

is such a system as forming no notches in the film with frame number bar codes. However, the film without notches can not provide timing signals for read the frame number bar codes and accordingly, the frame number bar codes themselves should be positively read. This causes the requirement of printing a higher quality of frame number bar codes than conventional DX bar codes on the film.

To print the frame number bar codes with a high quality, not only a printing head should form an optical pattern of bar code which is sharp and uniform in density but also the film to be printed should be placed in an accurate position upon printing the bar codes in order to avoid double exposures. In an attempt at avoiding a double exposed bar code which is often formed due to the reverse movement of film the which is caused by the fluttering of a moving film, oscillations of a film upon the film stops or a play of gears having backlash included in a film transporting system, there is a side printing apparatus in cooperation with a control system comprising a rotary encoder for providing encoder pulse signals in different two phases in synchronism with the transportation of film, a direction discriminator for discriminating a direction in which a film is transported to provide a forward direction signal or a reverse direction signal, an up-down counter for starting to count up the reverse direction signals and count down the forward direction signals and means for stopping a light emitting printing head until the up-down counter counts down to zero (0). Such a side printing apparatus is known from Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication No. 59(1984)-96966.

Another type of side printing apparatus, known from, for example, Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication No. 63(1988)-106633, comprises an up-down counter for counting up forward direction pulse signals from a direction discriminator and counting down reverse direction pulse signals from the same. A carry signal of the up-down counter is used as a print timing signal. In such a side printing apparatus, the up-down counter counts down reverse direction pulse signals after the reverse of transportation of a film, so that the amount of movement in the reverse direction can be effectively corrected.

Because of counting up and down forward direction pulse signals and reverse direction pulse signals in the above noted side printing apparatus, it is essential that forward and reverse direction signals do not overlap upon each other. However, in the case of generating the forward and reverse direction pulse signals from the encoder pulse signals different in phase, if the film violently oscillates

in its moving direction, it often happens to provide a reverse direction pulse signal or a forward direction pulse signal immediately after a forward direction pulse signal or a reverse direction pulse signal, respectively, depending upon the amplitude and cycle of oscillation of the film. Because, in such a case, a reverse direction pulse signal or a forward direction pulse signal rises before a forward direction pulse signal or a reverse direction pulse signal falls, respectively, the up-down counter makes an error not to count either one of the forward or the reverse direction pulse signal. That is, because of the direction discriminator consisting of a logic integral circuit to determine an encoder pulse signal to be in a high level (H) or in a low level (L) with a threshold level, if the film oscillates at the transition of an encoder pulse signal between the high level (H) and the low level (L), the rotary encoder repeatedly turns in both directions, so as to provide incomplete encoder pulse signals. Accordingly, the conventional direction discriminator is difficult to positively follow the changes of film moving direction so as to make the measurement of film transportation with a high accuracy. This leads to a difficulty of completely preventing a double exposure, thereby printing a sharp pattern of bar code on a film which is automatically readable by means of a bar code reader.

If the rotary encoder, which is rotated by a film to detect the length of movement of a film, encounters operational failures or errors, causing the interruption of encoder pulse signals, it is impossible to continue the measurement of film transportation. That is, signals from the rotary encoder are interrupted due to breakdowns of the rotary encoder itself or elements of signal transfer line, poor contacts of connectors, a mechanical failure in attaching the rotary encoder including loosened coupling, or a mechanical stress accumulated in the rotary encoder, it is judged that the film is stopped and accordingly, printing is interrupted. Accordingly, a bar code print pattern is destroyed. Accordingly, a single bar of a bar code will be separated into two thin bars if the film stops so as to place its part where a bar code is to be printed in a printing position, or a wide space will be formed between two bars of a bar code if the film stops so as to place its part where a bar code is not to be printed in a printing position. In any case, such a bar code is incorrectly read by an automatic bar code reader.

Bar code is generally printed with monochrome light. To provide the printing light, although it is possible to use the same color of light emitting elements, it is preferred to use different color of light and mixes the different color of light to provide monochrome light in respect to the efficiency of coloration. For this reason, a plurality of light emit-

ting diodes or laser diodes having different wavelengths are heretofore used. Such light emitting elements are driven by means of a drive circuit such as described in, for example, Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication No. 63(1988)-46409.

The drive circuit described in the publication is adapted to drive four LEDs having three different wavelengths use of six transistors so as to control an exposure. This drive circuit, although preferable to provide a desired color of light, is complex in structure to mix different color of light for a monochrome of light. It is also difficult, because of controlling an exposure by controlling times for which the LEDs emit light, it is difficult to print bar codes on almost all of films having different film speeds. For example, because commercially available films have film speeds between 10 and 3200 in ISO standard and the difference in sensitivity between the fastest and the slowest film is 320 times, if it is necessary to expose the fastest film for one (1)  $\mu$  second, the slowest film should be exposed approximately 320  $\mu$  seconds. 320  $\mu$  seconds necessary to print on a moving film is too long to be neglected. If it is difficult to print on a moving film for a short exposure time, there is caused a blur of print pattern. Such a blur of print pattern if significant, results in narrow printed bars or narrow spaces between printed bars.

To solve the above problem, it is thought to change a drive voltage for the light emitting elements. However, if a suitable voltage is not selected, an edge effect is caused in the printed bar code due to over exposure or a dull color of bar code is formed due to under exposure. In any case, the bar code is hard to be automatically read.

### Object of the Invention

It is, therefore, an object of the present invention to provide a bar code printer for printing frame number bar codes on a side margin of a film which are sharp and accurately automatically read.

### Summary of the Invention

The above object of the present invention is achieved by providing a bar code printing apparatus for printing a latent image of a bar code in a side margin of a film by the use of a light emitting element array comprising a rotary encoder driven by the moving film to output encoder pulse signals in different two phases; a direction discrimination means for detecting a direction in which the film is transported based on the encoder pulse signals to output a forward direction pulse signal indicating that the film is transported in a forward

direction and a reverse direction pulse signal indicating that the film is transported in a reverse direction every predetermined length of transportation of the film; and an up-down counter for counting up either one of the forward direction and reverse direction pulse signal signals and down the other, thereby correctively regulating a transported length of the film in the lengthwise direction.

The direction discrimination means comprises a clock pulse signal generating circuit for generating clock pulse signals on a frequency higher than that on which the encoder pulse signal is output, a first delay circuit for delaying slightly the clock pulse signal to output it as a delayed clock pulse signal, a latch circuit for latching at least one of the encoder pulse signals in two different phases in synchronism with the clock pulse signal to output a transportation signal, a second delay circuit for delaying the transportation signal, and two AND gates, each connected to the first and second delay circuits and the latch circuit, for outputting the forward direction pulse signal signal and the reverse direction pulse signal signal, respectively.

The AND gates may be replaced with two monostable multivibrators for outputting the forward direction pulse signal and the reverse direction pulse signal, respectively, on a frequency lower than that on which the clock pulse signal is generated.

Preferably, the bar code printing apparatus is provided with a monitoring means for monitoring operating conditions of the transportation pulse signal generating means based on whether the transportation pulse signal generating means receives the latch signal from the count means at a timing of generation of the synchronizing signal.

A printing head of the bar code printing apparatus preferably consists of a light emitting element array which consists of a plurality of light emitting units, each unit including a plurality of light emitting elements for emitting and mixing light having different wavelengths so as to provide monochromatic printing light. The light emitting unit is comprised from a light source circuit consisting of at least two in-series circuits one of which includes at least two of the light emitting elements connected in parallel, and a color tone regulating circuit having a variable resistor and a light emitting element connected in series, the color tone regulating circuit being connected to one of the in-series circuits in parallel; a regulating means for regulating an output voltage of a power source for supplying current to energize the light emitting elements so as to control the quantity of light from the light emitting elements; and a switching element for actuating the light emitting elements all at once.

The rotary encoder is driven by a film transported in a lengthwise direction to output encoder

pulse signals in two different phases. The encoder pulse signal in at least one phase of the two is latched in synchronism with a clock pulse signal provided on a frequency lower than that on which the encoder pulse signal is output. By latching the encoder pulse signal in such a manner, even if the rotary encoder considerably oscillates in both direction of rotation, only one transporting condition is restrictively detected between consecutive two clock pulse signals. Accordingly the latched output is used as a transportation signal to indicate in which direction the film is transported or moved. The AND gate provides a forward or reverse direction signal from a logical product of a transportation signal from the latch circuit, a delayed transportation signal delayed by the delay circuit, an encoder pulse signal in the other phase, and a delayed clock pulse signal. The first two of the four signals act to cause the AND gate to open when a pulse signal from the rotary encoder rises for a period on which the clock pulse signal is generated. The third acts to determine which one of the two AND gates should be opened. The last is transmitted through the open AND gate as a forward or a reverse direction pulse signal.

The monostable multivibrator is triggered by a transportation signal from the latch circuit to output a forward or a reverse direction pulse signal on a frequency lower than that on which the clock pulse signal is generated.

By adapting to provide a synchronizing pulse signal for every predetermined length of transportation of a film, a failure operation causes in the transportation pulse signal generating means can be detected based on the fact that another synchronizing pulse signal is generated before a predetermined number of transportation pulse signals are counted up by a counter. By counting pulse signals obtained by frequency dividing the transportation pulse signals after correcting a reversed movement of film upon the film is moved in the reverse direction, the counter is effectively prevented from miscounting. This increases the accuracy of monitoring the operation of the transportation pulse signal generating means.

To provide a synchronizing signal, a photosensor is preferably used in cooperation with a chattering prevention circuit so as to make detection errors due to noises caused by flutterings of the film or folded edges of the film.

In the light source circuit, by changing current flowing the light emitting elements, an exposure time is suitably controlled to make an proper exposure in accordance with the type or the speed of the film. This eliminates a blur of printed bar code image. Because of a single switching element used to energize the light emitting elements all at once, the light source circuit is simplified in structure. It is

preferable to incorporate a power source checking circuit to detect an abnormality of a power source circuit so as to prevent the bar code printing apparatus from making substandard prints.

### Brief Description of the Drawings

The above and other objects and features of the present invention will be apparent from the following description of preferred embodiments when taken in conjunction with the appended drawings, wherein like parts or elements are designated by like reference characters throughout the views of the drawings and in which:

Figure 1 is a schematic illustration showing a side printer in accordance with the present invention;

Figure 2 is an illustration showing part of a film on which patterns or bar codes are side printed;

Figure 3 is a schematic illustration showing a printing head forming a part of an exposure apparatus of the side printer of Fig. 1;

Figure 4 is a diagram of a circuit for driving LED a unit;

Figure 5 is a diagram of a power circuit of the LED driving circuit of Fig. 4;

Figure 6 is a diagram of a checking circuit in cooperation with the power circuit of Fig. 5;

Figures 7 and 8 are diagrams showing variations of a circuit for driving LED a unit of Fig. 4, respectively;

Figure 9 is a diagram showing details of a pulse generator and a print timing discriminator incorporated in the side printer of Fig. 1;

Figure 10 is a diagram showing an essential part of the circuit diagram of Fig. 9;

Figure 11 is a timing chart showing various signals used in the circuit of Fig. 10;

Figures 12 and 13 are diagrams showing variations of the circuit of Fig. 10;

Figure 14 is a diagram showing a variation of the circuit of Fig. 10 in which monostable multivibrators are used;

Figure 15 is a timing chart showing various signals used in the circuit of Fig. 14;

Figures 16 and 17 are diagrams showing variations of the circuit of Fig. 14;

Figure 18 is a timing chart for explaining the function of correcting reversed film;

Figure 19 is a diagram showing a failure detecting circuit for detecting operational failures of a rotary encoder;

Figure 20 is a diagram showing a variation of the failure detecting circuit of Fig. 19;

Figure 21 is a diagram showing another variation of the failure detecting circuit of Fig. 19;

Figure 22 is a diagram showing still another variation of the failure detecting circuit of Fig. 19;

Figures 23(A) and (B) are diagrams showing checking circuits used in the failure detecting circuit of Fig. 20;

Figure 24 is a diagram showing a further variation of the failure detecting circuit of Fig. 19;

Figure 25(A) is a diagram showing chattering prevention circuit used in the circuit of Fig. 24;

Figure 25(B) is a timing chart of various signals in the chattering prevention circuit of Fig. 25(A) used in the chattering prevention circuit of Fig. 25(A);

Figure 26 is a diagram showing a variation of the chattering prevention circuit of Fig. 25(A); and

Figure 27 is a diagram showing a conventional LED drive circuit.

### Detailed Description of the Invention

Referring to the drawings, in particular to Fig. 1, a side printer used in printing bar codes in a side margin of a film in which the present invention is embodied is shown. A film 15 is transported at a constant speed in one direction (which is hereinafter referred to as a forward direction) shown by an arrow by means of a measuring roller 16. The rotation of the measuring roller 16 is monitored by a rotary encoder 18 to output two phase signals indicating a transported length of film to a pulse generator 20. The pulse generator 20 outputs pulse signals of which number is proportional to the transported length of film to a printing timing discriminator 21.

The printing timing discriminator 21 which includes a counter for counting the pulse signals from the pulse generator 20, outputs a timing pulse signal upon counting a predetermined number of pulse signals to CPU 22. Upon receiving the timing signal, CPU 22 outputs an instruction signal for causing an exposure apparatus 24 of the side printer to make an exposure. CPU 22 is connected with a printing data setting unit 25 in which print pattern data and various necessary data are stored in its self-contained memory. Upon causing the exposure apparatus 24, CPU read out the print pattern data from the print pattern data setting unit 25 and sends them to the exposure apparatus 24.

The exposure apparatus 24 is provided with an LED driver 27 for selectively lighting LED array 28 to emit light in accordance with print pattern data upon receiving the print instruction signal. The pulse generator 20, as will be described in detail later, is equipped with features of detecting the reverse transportation of film and correcting the reverse transportation of film. Owing to the provision of the features, the transported length of film

in the forward direction is accurately detected even if the film is accidentally intermittently transported or reversed, thereby enabling the print timing discriminator 21 to output a print timing signal to CPU 22 at an accurate timing according to the transported length of film.

A film type data input unit 29 is used to input data of the type of film including the sensitivity or speed of film and the number of exposures in CPU 22. In accordance with the data, CPU 22 actuates the LED driver 27 to selectively energize LED array 28 so as to form a latent image in the film 15 with a controlled exposure. CPU 22 also controls a cutter 30 so as to cut off the film 15 to rolls of films having a predetermined length or a predetermined number of frames.

Light emanating from each LED of the LED array 28 is transmitted by way of a flexible light guide 31 in the form of a fiber bundle comprising a considerably great number of optical fibers and emitted from the end of the light guide 31 toward the film 15. The light in the form of a small dot from the light guide 31 is focused on a margin of the film 15 so as to create a latent image of a small dot. The LED driver 27 selectively lights the LEDs of the LED array 28 to form a light pattern of a numeral or a bar code on the film 15 traveling at a constant speed.

Referring to Fig. 2, partly illustrating a film on which frame numbers and bar codes are printed by the side printer constructed as above, the film 15 is formed with perforations 33 at regular spacings in both side margins. Between each row of perforations 33 and a side edge of the film 15, there is printed frame numbers with or without alphabetical characters 34 at regular spacings A. Just after each frame number 34 printed in one side margin, for example in the upper side margin as viewed in Fig. 2, there is printed a bar code 35 indicating the frame number 34. The bar codes 35 are printed at the same spacings A as that for the frame numbers. Further, in the other side margin, for example the lower in this example, there are printed DX codes 36 well known in the photographic art. These bar codes 35 and 36 are capable to be read by an optical reader well known in the art.

Referring to Fig. 3 illustrating details of a printing head forming a part of the exposure apparatus, in particular the LED array and the light guide assembly, the LED array 28 consisting of a number of LED units each including four different color LEDs, namely green light emitting diodes 28a and 28b and red light emitting diodes 28c and 28d. Each flexible light guide 31 is made from a fiber bundle 40 consists of a considerably great number of thin optical fibers 39.

The fiber bundle 40 has its incidence end formed in a circle and its exit end formed in a

square. The square end of the fiber bundle 40 enables to form a close arrangement of the fiber bundles at their exit ends, thereby forming, when lighting the LEDs of the LED array 28 all at once, a sharp light pattern of thin straight line. Because of mixing the fibers 39 of each fiber bundle 40, light emitted from the fiber bundle 40 has a mixed color of green and red.

The printing head thus structured is capable of printing frame numbers with or without alphabetical characters as well as the frame number bar code 35. That is, because each fiber bundle 40 forms a square dot, a light pattern of a numeral or a character is formed on the traveling film 15 by selectively lighting on and off the LEDs of the LED array 28.

Each LED unit consisting of four LEDs 28a-28d is controlled by an LED drive circuit shown in Fig. 4. The LED driver 27 consists of the same LED drive circuits as many as the LED units. The green LEDs 28a and 28b and the red LED 28c and 28d are, respectively, in parallel connection. The anodes of the green LEDs are connected to the cathodes of the red LED 28c and 28d, respectively. The LEDs 28a-28d are connected in series with resistors 42-45, respectively. A variable resistor 46, which is connected in parallel with respect to the LEDs 28c and 28d, controls currents to flow the respective LEDs 28a-28d in various required proportions so as to control the tone of color of the light emitting from the light guide 31.

A corrective LED 47, which is connected in series to the variable resistor 46 and in parallel with the red LEDs 28c and 28d, acts to minimize the change of ratio of currents flowing the green LEDs 28a and 28b and the red LEDs 28c and 28d, respectively due to the change of voltage V1 applied to the LEDs 28a-28d, thereby preventing the tone of color of light from the light guide 31 from changing. That is, because of the nonlinearity of current-to-voltage characteristic of LED, the variable resistor 46 changes the ratio of current flowing through the green LEDs 28a and 28b and the red LEDs 28c and 28d due to the change of voltage V1, resulting the change of the tone of color of the light from the light guide 31. When using a corrective LED 47 having the same current-to-voltage characteristic curve as the red LEDs 28c and 28d, the change of the ratio of current is minimized. A transistor 48 is used to drive the LEDs 28a-28d all at once.

The drive circuit includes monitoring points 50 and 51 between the red LED 28c and the resistor 44 and the red LED 28d and the resistor 45, respectively. Voltages present at the monitoring points 50 and 51 are detected and compared with a reference voltage V2 applied to comparators 53 and 54 in an error detecting circuit 52. If a voltage

present at the monitoring point 50 or 51 is lower than the reference voltage  $V_2$  when the transistor 48 is conductive, the comparator 53 or 54 outputs a warning signal. According to the drive circuit thus constructed, if either one of the red LEDs 28c and 28d is broken, no current flows through one of the monitoring points 50 and 51 that is connected to the broken red LED 28a or 28b. If either one or both of the green LEDs 28a and 28b are broken, voltages present at the monitoring points 50 and 51 are lowered. Therefore, in the breakage of any LED, at least one of the comparators 53 and 54 outputs a warning signal.

Referring to Fig. 5 illustrating a power source for providing the drive and reference voltages  $V_1$  and  $V_2$ , the power circuit comprises an LED drive voltage generating circuit 55 for providing a voltage  $V_1$  to the LEDs 28a-28d and a reference voltage generating circuit 56 for providing a reference voltage  $V_2$  to the error detecting circuit 52. Each voltage generating circuit 55, 56 consists of a high voltage source 57a, 58a for generating a high voltage  $V_1$ ,  $V_2$  a low voltage source 57b, 58b for generating a low voltage  $V_1$ ,  $V_2$  and switching means 59, 60 for selectively outputting the high or the low voltage  $V_1$ ,  $V_2$ . The switching means may take any type of switches, such as CMOS analog switch, relay switch or the like, which are all well known in the art.

When inputting data of the type of film through the film type data input unit 29 to CPU 22, a signal is output to the voltage generating circuits 55 and 56 to actuate the switching means 59 and 60 so as to select high or low voltages  $V_1$  and  $V_2$  in accordance with the sensitivity or film speed of the film type. For example, the voltage generating circuits 55 and 56 select the low voltage sources 57b and 58b, respectively, for a high speed of film or the high voltage sources 57a and 58a, respectively, for a low speed of film.

Each voltage generating circuit 55, 56 is provided with a power checking circuit shown in Fig. 6. The checking circuit includes changing means 62 and 63 cooperating with the changing means 59 and 60 of the voltage generating circuits 55 and 56, respectively. When the high voltage sources 57a and 58a are selected, the changing means 62 and 63 connect outputs from the voltage generating circuits 55 and 56 to the high voltage sources 65 and 66, respectively. On the other hand, when the low voltage sources 57b and 58b are selected, the changing means 62 and 63 connect outputs from the voltage generating circuits 55 and 56 to the high voltage sources 67 and 68, respectively. A voltage present at a monitoring point 69 or 70 between resistors 65 for high voltage and 66 or 67 and 68 for low voltage. Resistances of the resistors 65-68 are determined so as to present the same

voltage at the monitoring points. For example, when the voltage sources provide 24V and 12V, respectively, the resistors 65, 66, 67 and 68 are designed to have resistances 3, 1, 1 and 1, respectively, so as to present 6V at the monitoring points 69 and 70 at any time. Accordingly, reference voltages  $V_L$  and  $V_H$  for a power checking circuit 72 are maintained at constant values. This allows to check more than one power sources by one checking circuit.

The power checking circuit 72 connected to the monitoring points 69 and 70 compares a monitoring voltage at the monitoring point 69 or 70 with checking voltages  $V_L$  and  $V_H$  by means of a high voltage analog comparator 73 and a low voltage analog comparator 74. If the monitoring voltage at the monitoring point 69 or 70 is higher than the high reference voltage  $V_H$  or lower than the low reference voltage  $V_L$ , the power checking circuit 72 outputs a warning signal.

In operation of the drive circuit constructed as above, the variable resistor 46 is adjusted to regulate the tone of color of light emitted from the LED array 28 to a desired tone of color. In the printing data setting unit 25, there are stored printing data of patterns of characters and bar codes to be printed. The printing data are transferred from a computer or manually. In the film type data input unit 29, there are stored data of characteristics of the film 15 such as film speed. CPU 22 reads out necessary data from the printing data setting unit 25 and the film type data input unit 29.

When CPU 22 reads data of film type of the film 15, it selects one of the high and low voltage sources of each voltage generating circuit 55, 56 in accordance with the type of the film 15. CPU 22 selects the low voltage sources 57b and 58b for a low speed of film or the high voltage sources 57a and 58a for a high speed of film. At the same time, the power checking circuit changes the changing means 62 and 63 to connect a high voltage side (left side) upon selecting the high voltage sources 57a and 58a or a low voltage side (left right) upon selecting the low voltage sources 57b and 58b.

The print timing discriminator 21, upon receiving a signal provided every operation of the cutter 30 to cut the rough film 15 to a predetermined length of film strips, outputs a print start signal to CPU 22. Then, CPU 22 executes printing operations according to a predetermined sequence. For starting printing, CPU 22, upon receiving a signal from the print timing discriminator 21, reads out necessary print pattern data from the printing data setting unit 25 and, based on the data, outputs printing signal to the LED driver 27 so as to turn the transistor 48 conductive, thereby exciting the LED units of the LED array 28 with the selected



voltage V1 all at once.

At this time, if any one of the LEDs 28a-28d of each LED unit of the LED array 28 or wirings has been broken, the error detecting circuit 52 makes a warning in a manner as was previously described. Mixed color of light from the light guides 31 forms and projects a light pattern onto a side margin of the film 15, thereby creating a latent image of the pattern in the film 15.

For another speed of film, CPU 22 reads out data of the another speed of film so as to change the voltages V1 and V2 correspondingly to the speed of film. Thereafter, CPU 22 executes the same operations as for the film 15.

As apparent from the above description, the provision of the corrective LED 47 effectively serves to maintain the mixed color of light unchanged in tone even though the voltage V1 changes. The LEDs 28a-28d of each LED unit of the LED array 28 may be connected to one another as shown in Fig. 7 or 8 in place of the connection shown in Fig. 4.

The exposure apparatus 24 itself structured as above is capable of making a sharp print pattern. For favorable printing, it should be effected to measure the transported length of film with a high accuracy. For accurate measuring, a reverse correction means is provided in association with the pulse generator 20 and the print timing discriminator 21. As shown in Fig. 9, the film 15 is normally transported in the forward direction at a constant speed. The film 15 travels without any slippage between the measuring roller and therefore rotates the measuring roller 16 at a constant speed of rotation. The film possibly moves in the reverse direction shown by a dotted line when a film transporting system (not shown) stops or when the tension on the film 15 changes.

The rotary encoder 18 outputs encoder pulse signals EP-A and EP-B (see Fig. 11) in A phase and B phase, respectively, with the rotation of the measuring roller 16. These encoder pulse signals EP-A and EP-B are different in phase by 90° from each other. These encoder pulse signals EP-A and EP-B are fed to a pulse generator 81 as well as a clock pulse signal CP provided by a clock pulse generator 80. A direction discriminator 82 is comprised from the clock pulse generator 80 and pulse generator 81. The direction discriminator 82 discriminates a direction in which the film 15 is moving based on the encoder pulse signals EP-A and EP-B and the clock pulse signals CP to output forward direction pulse signals FP or reverse direction pulses RP, one for a predetermined length of transportation of the film 15.

The reverse direction pulse signals RP are fed to an up-terminal of an up-down counter 85 and up-counted thereby, the forward direction pulse

signals FP are fed to a down-terminal of the up-down counter 85 and down-counted thereby. A carry signal CS from the up-down counter 85 and the reverse direction pulse signals RP are fed to a NAND gate 86. The NAND gate 86 outputs a reset signal RS to a flip-flop 87 for resetting it. The flip-flop 87 outputs from its Q terminal a signal FS to a clear terminal CL of the up-down counter 85. When the flip-flop 87 is reset, it changes the signal FS to a high level (H) so as to cause the up-down counter to count pulse signals. Signals S1-S4 from four output terminals of the up-down counter 85 are fed to an AND gate 88. When a binary output is "0", the AND gate 88 changes its output signal SS to a high level (H) so as to set the flip-flop 87. When the flip-flop 87 is set, it changes the signal FS to a high level (H), thereby stopping the up-down counter 85.

The forward direction pulse signals FP are also fed to a timer circuit 89. The timer circuit 89 outputs a signal TS to an AND gate 90 as well as the signal FS from the flip-flop 87. The AND gate 90 outputs a signal PS to CPU 22. CPU 22, as long as receiving a signal PS of a high level (H) from the AND gate 90, continuously provides a print signal to the LED driver 27.

In the side printing apparatus described above, the up-down counter 85 starts to up-count pulse signals upon the provision of a first reverse direction pulse signal RP from the pulse generator 81 or to down-count pulse signals upon the provision of a first forward direction pulse signal FP from the pulse generator 81. Before the up-down counter has down-counted to zero (0), that is, until the film is transported in the forward direction by a length by which the film has been reversely moved, any exposure is prohibited so as to avoid double exposure. It is possible to actuate the timer circuit 89 timely at the provision of a carry signal CS from the up-down counter 85 so as to output a signal to CPU 22, thereby starting printing.

The direction discriminator 82 is shown in detail in Fig. 10. Pulses in one phase, for example in B phase, from the rotary encoder 18 are fed to D-terminal of D-type flip-flop 92. Fed to a clock input terminal or T-terminal of the D-type flip-flop 92 is a clock pulse signal CL from the clock pulse generator 80. The D-type flip-flop 92 latches the encoder pulse signal EP-B at a timing of the rising of a clock pulse signal CL and provides a film transportation condition signal HS from the Q-terminal. The D-type flip-flop 92 also outputs a signal LS, which is reversed in level against the signal HS from the Q-terminal, from the  $\bar{Q}$ -terminal thereof. Another D-type flip-flop 93, which is connected to the same type flip-flop 92, latches the film transportation condition signal HS from the Q-terminal of the D-type flip-flop 92 at a timing of the rising of a



clock pulse signal CL and outputs a latch condition signal MS from the Q-terminal.

An AND gate 94 is connected with an output HS from the Q-terminal of the D-type flip-flop 92, encoder pulse signals EP-A in A phase, an output signal NS from the  $\bar{Q}$ -terminal of the D-type flip-flop 93 and delayed clock pulse signal DP from a delay circuit 95. When all of the first three signals or pulse signals HS, EP-A and NS are in a high level (H), the AND gate 94 transmits the delayed clock pulse signals DP as forward direction pulse signal FP. The delay circuit 95 delays the clock pulse signals CL from the clock pulse generator 80 for a predetermined interval and outputs them as the delayed clock pulse signal DP. The delay interval is determined shorter than the period of the clock pulse signal CL for a reason described later. The delay circuit 95 consists, for example, of a plurality of IC gates connected one another.

An AND gate 96 is connected with an output LS from the  $\bar{Q}$ -terminal of the D-type flip-flop 92, encoder pulse signals EP-A in A phase, an output signal MS from the Q-terminal of the D-type flip-flop 93 and delayed clock pulse signal DP from a delay circuit 95. When all of the three pulse signals LS, EP-A, MS and DP are in a high level (H), the AND gate 96 transmits the delayed clock pulse signals DP as reverse direction pulse signal RP.

Referring to Fig. 11 illustrating a timing chart of various signals in the direction discriminator 82, the film 15 moves in the forward direction before a line T and in the reverse direction after the line T.

During the film 15 moves in the forward direction so as to rotate the rotary encoder 18 in the same direction, the rotary encoder 18 outputs encoder pulse signals EP-B in phase B. Upon the rising of the encoder pulse signal EP-B, the leading edge of a first clock pulse signal CL causes the D-type flip-flop 92 to change the output signal HS from its Q-terminal to a high level (H) from a low level (L), the leading edge of a subsequent clock pulse signal CL causes the D-type flip-flop 93 to change the output signal NS from its  $\bar{Q}$ -terminal to a low level (L) from a high level (H). Between the changes of output signals HS and NS of the D-type flip-flops 92 and 93, an encoder pulse signal EP-A in phase A is maintained in a high level and the AND gate 94 receives one delayed clock pulse signal DP from the delay circuit 95. As a result, the AND gate 94 outputs one forward direction pulse signal FP.

If the film 15 moves in the reverse direction and thereby rotating the rotary encoder 18 in the same direction, upon the falling of the encoder pulse signal EP-B, the leading edge of a first clock pulse signal CL causes the D-type flip-flop 92 to change its output signal LS from the  $\bar{Q}$ -terminal to a high level (H) from a low level (L), the leading

edge of a subsequent clock pulse signal CL causes the D-type flip-flop 93 to change the output signal MS from the Q-terminal to a low level (L) from a high level (H). Between the changes of output signals LS and MS of the D-type flip-flops 92 and 93, an encoder pulse signal EP-A in phase A is maintained in a high level and an AND gate 96 receives one delayed clock pulse signal DP from the delay circuit 95. As a result, the AND gate 96 outputs one reverse direction pulse signal RP.

Because a clock pulse signal CL latches an encoder pulse signal, it is essential that the period of clock pulse signal is sufficiently higher than a maximum period of encoder pulse signal. However, because the clock pulse signals are counted by the up-down counter 85, the frequency on which a clock pulse signal is generated is lower than 10MHz the clock pulse signal CL is delayed and transmitted as a forward direction pulse signal or a reverse direction pulse signal through the AND gate 64 or 66, the most desirable frequency is 1MHz. A pulse width of the clock pulse signal CL has a close relationship to the delay time by the delay circuit 95 and the maximum pulse width is expressed by "pulse period" - "delay time" - "operating time of element". The pulse width, which is a duty rate, is most preferable to be 50%.

To obtain an output from the AND gate 94 or 96, the delay time of a clock pulse signal CL by the delay circuit 95 is necessary to be shorter than the pulse width of the clock pulse signal CL. For example, when the frequency on which the clock pulse signal CL is generated is 1MHz and the duty rate is 50%, the delay time should be less than 0.5 second.

Although, in the direction discriminator 82 shown in Fig. 10, one forward or reverse direction pulse signal FP or RP is provided every encoder pulse signal EP-A, it is required to provide more than one forward or reverse direction pulse signals every encoder pulse signal in order to effect the precise measurement of transported length of the film 15. For this requirement, it is preferred to incorporate another preferred direction discriminator shown Fig. 12 in which AND gates 97 and 98, OR gates 99 and 100 and an inverter 101 are added to the direction discriminator 82 shown in Fig. 10. As shown, the inverter 101 acts to inverse the polarity of encoder pulse signal EP-A in A phase. The inversed polarity of encoder pulse signal IEP-A is fed to the AND gates 97 and 98. The AND gate 97 is further connected with an output signal LS from the  $\bar{Q}$ -terminal of the D-type flip-flop 92, an output signal MS from the Q-terminal of the D-type flip-flop 93 and a delayed clock pulse signal DP from a delay circuit 95 as well as the inversed polarity of encoder pulse signal IEP-A. When at least one of the AND gates 97 and 98

provides an output signal, the OR gate 99 outputs a forward direction pulse signal FP to the up-down counter 85.

In a similar manner, the AND gate 98 is connected with the inversed polarity of encoder pulse signal IEP-A from the inverter 101, an output signal HS from the  $\bar{Q}$ -terminal of the D-type flip-flop 92, an output signal NS from the Q-terminal of the D-type flip-flop 93 and a delayed clock pulse signal DP from a delay circuit 95. When at least one of the AND gates 97 and 98 provides an output signal, the OR gate 100 outputs a reverse direction pulse signal RP to the up-down counter 85.

In this embodiment, the AND gate 94 outputs a pulse signal at a timing of the rising of an encoder pulse signal EP-B and the AND gate 97 outputs a pulse signal at a timing of the falling of an encoder pulse signal EP-B when the film 15 is forwarded, so that two forward direction pulse signals FP are output. Similarly, the AND gate 96 outputs a pulse signal at a timing of the falling of an encoder pulse signal EP-B and the AND gate 98 outputs a pulse signal at a timing of the rising of an encoder pulse signal EP-B when the film is reversed, so that two reverse direction pulse signals RP are output.

Fig. 13 shows another embodiment in which four forward or reverse direction pulse signal FP or RP are provided for every encoder pulse signal in order to effect more precise measurement of transported length of the film 15. In this embodiment, D-type flip-flops 102 and 103 and AND gates 104-107 are added to the direction discriminator shown Fig. 12. As shown, the D-type flip-flop 102 receives an encoder pulse signal EP-A at its D-terminal and a clock pulse signal at its clock terminal T. The D-type flip-flop 102 latches the encoder pulse signal EP-A at a timing of a clock pulse signal CL so as to output a condition signal from its Q-terminal. Another D-type flip-flop 103 latches an output from the Q-terminal of the D-type flip-flop 102 at a timing of another clock pulse signal CL.

The AND gate 104 is connected to outputs FS, N and P from the Q-terminal of the D-type flip-flop 92,  $\bar{Q}$ -terminal of the D-type flip-flop 102 and the Q-terminal of the D-type flip-flop 103, respectively and receives a delay clock pulse signal DP from the delay circuit 95. Output from the AND gate 104 is sent to the OR gate 99. Similarly, the AND gate 105 is connected to outputs LS, Q and R from the  $\bar{Q}$ -terminal of the D-type flip-flop 92, Q-terminal of the D-type flip-flop 102 and the  $\bar{Q}$ -terminal of the D-type flip-flop 103, respectively, and receives a delay clock pulse signal DP from the delay circuit 95. Output from the AND gate 105 is sent to the OR gate 99. The OR gate 99 transmits as a forward direction pulse signal any one of outputs from the AND gates 94, 97, 104 and 105.

The AND gate 106 is connected to outputs LS,

N and P from the  $\bar{Q}$ -terminal of the D-type flip-flop 92,  $\bar{Q}$ -terminal of the D-type flip-flop 102 and the Q-terminal of the D-type flip-flop 103, respectively and receives a delay clock pulse signal DP from the delay circuit 95. Output from the AND gate 106 is sent to the OR gate 100. Similarly, the AND gate 107 is connected to outputs HS, Q and R from the Q-terminal of the D-type flip-flop 92,  $\bar{Q}$ -terminal of the D-type flip-flop 102 and the Q-terminal of the D-type flip-flop 103, respectively, and receives a delay clock pulse signal DP from the delay circuit 95. Output from the AND gate 107 is sent to the OR gate 100. The OR gate 100 transmits any one of outputs from the AND gates 94, 97, 104 and 105 as a reverse direction pulse signal.

In this embodiment, because the AND gate 104 outputs a pulse signal at a timing of the falling of an encoder pulse signal EP-A and the AND gate 105 outputs a pulse signal at a timing of the rising of an encoder pulse signal EP-A in addition to two forward direction pulse signals for one encoder pulse signal EP-B, four forward direction pulse signals are output upon the forward movement of the film 15. Similarly, because the AND gate 106 outputs a pulse signal at a timing of the falling of an encoder pulse signal EP-A and the AND gate 107 outputs a pulse signal at a timing of the rising of an encoder pulse signal EP-A in addition to two forward direction pulse signals for one encoder pulse signal EP-B, four forward direction pulse signals are output upon the reverse movement of the film 15.

It is possible to replace the AND gates with monostable multivibrators 111 and 112. As shown in Fig. 14, a D-type flip-flop 110 receives an encoder pulse signal EP-B at its D-terminal and a clock pulse signal CP from the clock pulse generator 80 at its T-terminal. The D-type flip-flop 110 latches the encoder pulse signal EP-B at a timing of the clock pulse signal CP. A monostable multivibrator 111, which receives a pulse signal SP output from the Q-terminal of the D-type flip-flop 110, outputs a forward direction pulse signal FP at every rising of the input pulse signal SP. The monostable multivibrator 111 also receives an encoder pulse signal EP-A at its reset terminal RP. When the encoder pulse signal EP-A is at a low level (L), the monostable multivibrator 111 is prevented from outputting a forward direction pulse signal FP.

Another monostable multivibrator 112, which receives a pulse signal TP output from the  $\bar{Q}$ -terminal of the D-type flip-flop 110, outputs a reverse direction pulse signal RP at every rising of the input pulse signal TP. The monostable multivibrator 112 also receives an encoder pulse signal EP-A at its reset terminal R. When the encoder pulse signal EP-A is at a low level (L), the mon-

ostable multivibrator 112 is prevented from outputting a reverse direction pulse signal RP.

The pulse widths of the forward direction pulse signal FP and the reverse direction pulse signal RP are determined depending upon capacity and resistance of the monostable multivibrator 111 and the monostable multivibrator 112, respectively. Periods at which the monostable multivibrators 111 and 112 output pulse signals are shorter than that of the clock pulse signal so that the forward direction pulse signal FP and the reverse direction pulse signal RP do not overlap.

Referring to Fig. 15 illustrating a timing chart of various signals and pulse signals provided in the direction discriminator 82 shown in Fig. 14, the film 15 moves in the forward direction before a line T and in the reverse direction after the line T.

During the forward rotation of the rotary encoder 18, when an encoder pulse signal EP-B rises, the leading edge of a clock pulse signal CL causes the D-type flip-flop 110 to change the output signal SP from its Q-terminal to a high level (H) from a low level (L). Because the encoder pulse signal EP-A, which is fed to the reset terminal R of the monostable multivibrator 111, is at a high level (H), the monostable multivibrator 111 outputs a certain width of forward direction pulse signal FP due to the change of the pulse signal SP output from the Q-terminal of the D-type flip-flop 110 to a high level (H) from a Low level (L).

On the other hand, during the reverse rotation of the rotary encoder 18, when an encoder pulse signal EP-B falls, the leading edge of a clock pulse signal CP causes the D-type flip-flop 110 to change the output signal TP from its  $\bar{Q}$ -terminal to a high level (H) from a low level (L). Because the encoder pulse signal EP-A, which is fed to the reset terminal R of the monostable multivibrator 112, is at a high level (H), the monostable multivibrator 112 outputs a certain width of reverse direction pulse signal RP due to the change of the pulse signal TP output from the Q-terminal of the D-type flip-flop 111 to a high level (H) from a Low level (L).

Referring to Fig. 16 illustrating a variation of the direction discriminator 82 shown in Fig. 14 in which two pulse signals are provided for a period of encoder pulse signal and monostable multivibrators 124 and 125, an inverter 126 and OR gates 127 and 128 are added to the circuit of a Fig. 14.

The inverter 126 acts to inverse the polarity of encoder pulse signal EP-A in A phase. The inverted polarity of encoder pulse signal IEP-A is fed to both of reset terminals R of the monostable multivibrator 124 and 125. The monostable multivibrator 124 receives a pulse signal SP from the Q-terminal of the D-type flip-flop 110 and outputs at its Q-terminal thereof a pulse signal at a timing of falling of the pulse signal SP. The OR gate 127,

which receives outputs from the Q-terminals of the monostable multivibrator 111 and 124, transmits one of the outputs as a forward direction pulse signal FP therefrom when it receives either on of the output. The monostable multivibrator 124 outputs a pulse signal at a timing of the falling of encoder pulse signal EP-B when the film moves in the forward direction and the monostable multivibrator 125 outputs a pulse signal at a timing of the rising of encoder pulse signal EP-B when the film moves in the reverse direction.

Referring to Fig. 17 illustrating a variation of the direction discriminator 82 shown in Fig. 16 in which a D-type flip-flop 130 and monostable multivibrators 131, 132 and 133 are added to the circuit of a Fig. 15. The D-type flip-flop 130 receives an encoder pulse signal EP-A at its D-terminal and a clock pulse signal CP from the clock pulse generator 80 at its T-terminal. The D-type flip-flop 130 latches the encoder pulse signal EP-A at a timing of the clock pulse signal CP. The monostable multivibrator 131, which receives a pulse signal VP output from the Q-terminal of the D-type flip-flop 130 as a trigger input, outputs a pulse signal at the falling of the input pulse signal VP. The monostable multivibrator 131, which receives a pulse signal SP output from the  $\bar{Q}$ -terminal of the D-type flip-flop 110 at its reset terminal R, is prevented from outputting a pulse signal at its Q-terminal when the input pulse signal SP is at a low level (L).

The monostable multivibrator 132, which receives a pulse signal VP output from the  $\bar{Q}$ -terminal of the D-type flip-flop 130 as a trigger input, outputs a pulse signal at the rising of the input pulse signal VP. The monostable multivibrator 132, which receives a pulse signal TP output from the  $\bar{Q}$ -terminal of the D-type flip-flop 110 at its reset terminal R, is prevented from outputting a pulse signal at its Q-terminal when the input pulse signal TP is at a low level (L).

The monostable multivibrator 133, which receives a pulse signal WP output from the  $\bar{Q}$ -terminal of the D-type flip-flop 130 as a trigger input, outputs a pulse signal at the rising of the input pulse signal VP. The monostable multivibrator 133, which receives a pulse signal TP output from the Q-terminal of the D-type flip-flop 110 at its reset terminal R, is prevented from outputting a pulse signal at its Q-terminal when the input pulse signal TP is at a low level (L).

The monostable multivibrator 134, which receives a pulse signal WP output from the Q-terminal of the D-type flip-flop 130 as a trigger input, outputs a pulse signal at the falling of the input pulse signal WP. The monostable multivibrator 134, which receives a pulse signal SP output from the Q-terminal of the D-type flip-flop 110 at its reset

terminal R, is prevented from outputting a pulse signal at its Q-terminal when the input pulse signal SP is at a low level (L).

The OR gate 127, which is connected to output pulse signals from the Q-terminals of the four monostable multivibrator 111, 124, 131 and 132, outputs a forward direction pulse signal FP when it actually receives at least any one of the output pulse signals. Similarly, the OR gate 128, which is connected to output pulse signals from the Q-terminals of the four monostable multivibrator 112, 125, 133 and 134, outputs a reverse direction pulse signal RP when it actually receives at least any one of the output pulse signals.

The monostable multivibrator 131 outputs a pulse signal at a timing of the falling of an encoder pulse signal EP-A and the monostable multivibrator 132 outputs a pulse signal at a timing of the rising of the encoder pulse signal EP-A when the film moves in the forward direction. The monostable multivibrator 133 outputs a pulse signal at a timing of the falling of an encoder pulse signal EP-A and the monostable multivibrator 134 outputs a pulse signal at a timing of the rising of the encoder pulse signal EP-A when the film moves in the reverse direction. Thereby, four forward or reverse direction pulse signals are provided for each period of encoder pulse signal.

In any embodiment described above, because an encoder pulse signal is latched by a clock pulse signal generated at a high frequency, if the film causes oscillations in the both directions of movement, the direction of movement of the film is restrictively determined to be either forward or reverse between at least two consecutive clock pulse signals. The circuit for discriminating the direction of movement of the film is adapted to provided only one forward or reverse direction pulse signal between the two consecutive clock pulse signals, so as to certainly prevent the overlap of forward and reverse direction pulse signals.

The D-type flip-flop used as a latch means in the above embodiments may be replaced with a JK-type flip-flop. Furthermore, the delay circuit in the above embodiments may take the form of a cascaded connection of two monostable multivibrators.

As described above, by accurately detecting the reversed movement of the film and effecting a correction of movement of the film, bar-codes are side printed on the film at precise locations and no double exposure is caused. However, it is essential for side printing bar-codes on the film at precise locations that the rotary encoder works precisely in addition to controlling accurately the movement of the film. For example, if the rotary encoder 18 is disabled to provide a signal due to a breakdown of the rotary encoder itself or elements of signal

transfer line, a poor contact of connectors, a mechanical failure in attaching the rotary encoder 18 including loosened coupling, or mechanical stress accumulated in the rotary encoder 18, it is judged that the film 15 is stopped and accordingly, printing is interrupted. If the film is forwarded while the rotary encoder 18 provides no signal, nothing is printed on the film 18. This leads to printing wrong patterns on the film 18 at wrong locations, resulting in producing substandard films.

In view of the above, to monitor the operation of the rotary encoder 18, a rotary encoder monitoring circuit shown in Fig. 19 is incorporated in the side printer. As shown, the rotary encoder 18 outputs film transporting signals in different two phases which in turn are transmitted to a correction circuit 150 for correcting a reversed movement of the film 15. The correction circuit 150 is adapted to produce a series of transportation pulse signals a the number of which is proportional to the length of the film 15 transported in the forward direction. The series of transportation signals a are sent, on one hand, to an AND gate 151 and, on the other hand, to a frequency divider 152. The frequency divider 152 divides the series of transportation pulse signals a at an appropriate dividing ratio and sends them as monitoring pulse signals b to an operational failure detecting circuit 169 which will be described in detail later. It is to be noted that the length of the film transported for the period of a monitoring pulse signal b is longer than that for the period of a transportation pulse signal a.

The film 15 fed to the side printer, as was previously described with reference to Fig. 1, has notches 153, one every length for one roll of film. The notch 153 is detected by a photosensor 155 incorporated in the side printer at an appropriate location. The photosensor 155 outputs a light level of notch signal very detection of the notch 153 and sends it to a differential circuit 156. The differential circuit 156 produces a synchronizing pulse signal c upon detecting the leading edge or the trailing edge of the notch signal. For a synchronizing pulse signal, which is used in the side printer to detect the leading or the trailing ends of rolls of film to which the film 15 is cut, various signals may be available, such as a cutting signal produced upon cutting the film to a roll of film by the cutter 30 (see Fig. 3), a signal produced by an optical or a mechanical contact sensor attached to a drive shaft of the cutter 30 every time the cutter 30 cuts the film to a roll of film product or an actuation pulse signal applied to a notch former for forming notches 153 in the film 15, other than the signal provided by the photosensor 155, because any signal is produced for the length of a roll of film.

The synchronizing signal c is sent to a latch circuit 157 consisting of, for example an RS-type

flip-flop. The RS-type flip-flop 157 is reset upon receiving the synchronizing signal  $\bar{c}$  and outputs a high level (H) of signal at its Q-terminal which in turn is fed to an AND gate 158 so as to open it.

The delay counter 160 connected to the AND gate 158, of which the preset count value is equal to the number of divided pulse signals  $\bar{b}$  to be produced correspondingly to a length of film by which the film 15 is transported between the generation of a synchronizing pulse signal  $\bar{c}$  and the start of printing, outputs a low level (L) of signal upon counting the same number of divided pulse signals  $\bar{c}$  as the preset count value. This low level signal (L) is sent, on one hand, to the reset terminal of the latch circuit 157 and, on the other hand, to the reset terminal of the latch circuit 161 to reset it.

Upon resetting the latch circuit 161 with the low level signal (L) from the delay counter 160, the latch circuit 161 outputs a high level (H) signal at its Q-terminal so as to open the AND gate 151, causing an interval counter 163 to count the transportation pulse signal  $\bar{a}$  from the correction circuit 150. The interval counter 168 outputs a print timing signal every time it counts up a predetermined number of the transportation pulse signal  $\bar{a}$  to the CPU 22. With the print timing signal, the CPU 22 controls the exposure apparatus 24 so as to print characters and a bar code on the film at a predetermined location. When printing is completed for a roll of film in this way, the CPU 22 outputs a print termination signal to the latch circuit 161 to reset it, thereby closing the AND gate 151 and resetting the interval counter 168.

The operational failure detecting circuit 169 includes operational failure detecting counters 170 and 171 for detecting operational failures and asynchronisms of the rotary encoder 18, respectively, to which divided pulse signals  $\bar{b}$  are fed. The operational failure detecting counter 170, which is initially set to a value as large as the number of divided pulse signals  $\bar{b}$  corresponding to a length slightly shorter than that of a roll of film, changes the initial preset value by one decrement every divided pulse signal  $\bar{b}$ . Upon counting down to zero (0), the failure detecting counter 170 outputs a low level signal (L) at its UP terminal to a latch circuit 172. The failure detecting counter 170, upon receiving a synchronizing signal  $\bar{c}$  from the differential circuit 156 at the reset terminal R, resets itself to the initial preset value.

When the latch circuit 172 is set, an OR gate 174 is turned to close so as to shut off the synchronizing signals  $\bar{c}$  provided thereafter. The synchronizing signal, after being delayed by a delay circuit 175, resets the latch circuit 172. On the other hand, if a synchronizing signal  $\bar{c}$  is generated before the low level signal (L) is output from the UP-terminal of the failure detecting counter 170, it

sets a latch circuit 176 and causes it to output an operational failure signal indicating an operational failure of the rotary encoder (R/E) at its Q-terminal.

The asynchronism detecting counter 171, which is initially set to a value as large as the number of divided pulse signals  $\bar{b}$  corresponding to a length slightly longer than that of a roll of film, changes the initial preset value by one decrement every divided pulse signal  $\bar{b}$ . Upon counting down to zero (0), the asynchronism detecting counter 171 outputs a low level signal (L) at its UP terminal to set a latch circuit 177. Upon setting the asynchronism detecting counter 177, the asynchronism detecting counter 177 outputs a high level signal (H) as an asynchronism signal.

In operation of the rotary encoder monitoring circuit shown in Fig. 19, when the photosensor 155 detects one of notches 153 formed in the film 15 at regular spacings corresponding to the length of a roll of film, the differential circuit 156 outputs a synchronizing signal  $\bar{c}$  to set the latch circuit 157 and set the failure detecting counter 170 and the asynchronism detecting counter 171 to their initial values, respectively. Upon setting the latch circuit 157, the AND gate 158 opens to transmit divided pulse signals  $\bar{b}$  from the frequency divider 152 to the delay counter 160. The film is continuously transported even after the synchronizing signal  $\bar{c}$  is output, divided pulse signals  $\bar{b}$  provided correspondingly to the length of transportation of the film 15 are counted up by the delay counter 160 up to a predetermined count value. At a time the film 15 is properly located so as to place part thereof to be printed in the exposure position, the count of the delay counter 160 reaches to the predetermined count value and outputs a low level signal (L) to set the latch circuit 161, thereby resetting the latch circuit 157 and closing the AND gate 158.

As a result of setting the latch gate 161, the AND gate 151 opens to feed transportation pulse signals  $\bar{a}$  to the interval counter 168. The interval counter 168, upon counting a predetermined number of the transportation pulse signals  $\bar{a}$ , outputs a print timing signal to the CPU 22 so as to cause the exposure apparatus 24 to print a characters on the film 15. This ordinary printing operation of the side printer is repeated every detection of notch 153 by the photosensor 155.

As long as the side printer repeats the ordinary printing operation, because the photosensor 155 detects a notch 153 at a timing after the failure detecting counter 170 counts down the divided pulse signals  $\bar{b}$  as many as its initial count value to zero and outputs a low level signal (L) at the UP-terminal, thereby keeping the OR gate 174 closed so as to continuously disables the latch circuit 176 to output an operational failure signal even though another synchronizing signal  $\bar{c}$  is provided from the

differential circuit 156.

The asynchronism detecting counter 171, because it receives another synchronizing signal  $\bar{c}$  at its reset terminal before counting down the divided pulse signals  $\bar{b}$  as many as its initial count value to zero, outputs no low level signal (L) at its UP-terminal, so that the latch circuit 177 is kept disabled.

If an abnormal or failure operation is caused in the rotary encoder 18 and/or the correction circuit 150 due to disturbances or other obstructions and thereby, transportation pulse signals  $\bar{a}$  are partly or tentatively interrupted, the divided pulse signals  $\bar{b}$  are reduced in number. At the time the photosensor 155 detects another notch 153 and the another synchronizing pulse signal  $\bar{c}$  is provided, the failure detecting counter 170 outputs no low level signal (L) and thereby, the OR gate 174 is kept open. Accordingly, the another synchronizing pulse signal  $\bar{c}$  sets the latch circuit 176 through the OR gate 176 so as to provide an operational failure signal.

The asynchronism detection counter 171 usually counts down divided pulse signals  $\bar{b}$  from its initial count value to which the asynchronism detection counter 171 is set by a synchronizing signal  $\bar{c}$  and is reset by another synchronizing signal  $\bar{c}$  before counting them to zero (0). However, if the photosensor 155 outputs no synchronizing signal  $\bar{c}$  due to some troubles, the asynchronism detection counter 171 is not reset and counts up to latch the latching circuit 177, thereby providing an asynchronizing signal.

In this embodiment, because synchronizing signals are used as timing signals for asynchronism detection detect, the detection of abnormal generation of the synchronizing signals makes it certain to detect the failure of operation of the rotary encoder 18. Furthermore, it is eliminated to forward the film without effecting printing due to the lack of a printing signal. It is to be noted that the frequency divider 152 and the differential circuit 156 may not be always provided. No provision of the frequency divider 152 results in the number of count value digits of the operational failure detecting counter 170 and the asynchronizing detecting counter 171. If the delay counter is omitted, then the AND gate 151 and the latch circuit 157 should also be omitted. In this case, an output from the Q-terminal of the latch circuit 157 is fed to one of the input terminals of the AND gate 151 and a print termination signal from the CPU 22 is fed to the reset terminal of the latch circuit 157.

Referring to Fig. 20, a variation of the rotary encoder monitoring circuit shown in Fig. 19 is shown, being almost identical in structure to the operation monitoring circuit shown in Fig. 19 excepting the manner of processing transportation signals from the encoder 18. An interval counter

180, of which an initial count value of the interval counter 180 is set by means of a preset value input unit 180a and which receives the transportation signals from the encoder 18 via the direction discriminator 82, has up and down counter terminals to count up forward transportation signals or count down reverse transportation signals. The interval counter 180 outputs a low level signal (L) and reset its count value to zero (0) every time of counting up the same number of forward transportation signals as the preset count value. Accordingly, the interval counter 180 outputs low level signals (L) as divided transportation pulse signals, one for the same number of transportation pulse signals as its preset count value to the failure detection counter 170 and the asynchronism detecting counter 171.

A low level signal (L) thus output from the UP-terminal of the interval counter 180 is inverted to a high level signal (H) and transmitted as a print timing signal to the CPU 22 only when the AND gate 151 opens, thereby starting printing. In this embodiment, it is also to be noted that the delay counter 160 is not always in the same reason as in the previous embodiment.

Referring to Fig. 21, another variation of the rotary encoder monitoring circuit shown in Fig. 19 is shown. In this monitoring circuit, the photosensor 155 in the monitoring circuit shown in Fig. 19 is removed. However, a check signal  $\bar{e}$  is input by means of an external input unit. For such a check signal  $\bar{e}$  which is periodically input for a predetermined length of transportation of the film, a signal provided every one rotation of the measuring roller 16 or a check timing signal provided from the CPU 22 may be used. A check signal  $\bar{e}$  is differentiated by the differential circuit 156. The differentiated pulse signal resets the failure detecting counter 170 and the asynchronism detecting circuit 171 as well as the latch circuit 157. Following the resetting of the counters 170 and 171 the the latch circuit 157, the same procedures as in the rotary encoder monitoring circuit shown in Fig. 19 are basically taken excepting the usage of the differentiated pulse signal for the synchronizing pulse signal  $\bar{c}$ .

The AND gate 158, which controls the transmission of divided pulse signals  $\bar{b}$  from the frequency dividing circuit 152, is connected with an OR gate 184 connected to the Q-terminal of the latch circuit 157 and an input terminal  $\bar{d}$ . A delay counter 186 for counting the divided pulse signals  $\bar{b}$  transmitted through the AND gate 158 takes a form a rate generator which output a low level pulse signal (L) for a predetermined number of divided pulse signals  $\bar{b}$  (for example the number of divided pulse signals  $\bar{b}$  provided correspondingly to a roll of film).

By applying with a high level signal (L) at the



input terminal so as to keep the AND gate 158 open, because divided pulse signals  $\bar{b}$  are continuously transmitted to the delay counter 186 which is a rate generator, a triggering signal for starting printing is obtained every time a predetermined number of divided pulse signals  $\bar{b}$  are output. That is, a print synchronizing signal is provided not from an external unit but in itself. By using the check signal  $\bar{e}$  input on a certain period, it is possible to detect an failure of the rotary encoder 18 within the period. The accuracy of detecting errors of the rotary encoder 18 of course depends upon periods of check signal  $\bar{e}$ . The failure detecting counter 171 monitors the period on which differential pulse signals are generated based on the divided pulse signals  $\bar{b}$ , this is corresponding to the monitoring of synchronizing pulse signals  $\bar{c}$  in the rotary encoder monitoring circuit shown in Fig. 19.

If using the rotary encoder monitoring circuit with maintaining a low level signal (L) to be applied at the input terminal  $\bar{d}$ , the delay counter 186 acts in the same manner as that in the rotary encoder monitoring circuit shown in Fig. 19. In this case, printing is effected at a timing of the application of signal at the input terminal  $\bar{e}$ . That is, the input terminal  $\bar{d}$  is used to select whether a synchronizing signal for printing should be provided outside or inside.

As described above, in this embodiment which is suitably used to manufacture a number of rolls of film from a long rough film provided with no notches, although no synchronizing signal  $\bar{c}$  is provided every predetermined length of movement of the film, the use of the delay counter 186 as a rate generator in which an initial count is previously set to the number of divided pulse signals  $\bar{b}$  corresponding to the predetermined length of a roll of film performs the same printing function as that shown in Fig. 19. For a side printer operating in such a way, by inputting check signals to the input terminal  $\bar{e}$  at appropriate intervals, failures caused in the rotary encoder 18 can be detected.

Referring to Fig. 22, still another variation of the rotary encoder monitoring circuit shown in Fig. 19 is shown. In this monitoring circuit, used as a signal for resetting a failure detecting counter 188 and an asynchronism detecting counter 190 similar to the failure detecting counter 170 and the asynchronism detecting counter 171 in the rotary encoder monitoring circuit shown in Fig. 19 is not a synchronizing signal  $\bar{c}$  but a signal output from a delay counter 191. Accordingly, the failure detecting counter 188 is reset by a signal from the delay counter 191 and checks whether the rotary encoder 18 provides an appropriate number of pulse signals.

If pulse signals from the rotary encoder are not obtained at all, the delay counter 191 does not any

signal and therefore, it becomes impossible to detect a failure caused in the rotary encoder 18. For this reason, a rotary encoder checking circuit 193 which receives divided pulse signals  $\bar{b}$  from the frequency dividing circuit 152 is provided to detect the interruption of pulse signals from the rotary encoder 18. The rotary encoder checking circuit 193 is structured, for example, to provide a film transportation error signal when a high (H) or a low (L) level of divided pulse signal  $\bar{b}$  is successively output N times. The level of divided pulse signal  $\bar{b}$  is sampled every predetermined period by being directly retrieved into I/O by a microcomputer.

For the rotary encoder checking circuit 193, a circuit shown in Fig. 23(A) may be used. As shown, divided pulse signals  $\bar{b}$  provided as the film is transported are fed to a triggerable monostable multivibrator 200 of which the holding time is set longer than a period on which divided pulse signal  $\bar{b}$  is ordinarily provided. During divided pulse signals  $\bar{b}$  are provided, the triggerable monostable multivibrator 200 maintains a high level signal (H) at its Q-terminal. A flip-flop 201 connected to the triggerable monostable multivibrator 200 detects the falling of a pulse signal input thereto to output a high level signal (H) at its Q-terminal.

An output from a Q-terminal of the flip-flop circuit 201 is connected to the T-terminal of a D-type flip-flop 202. Fed to the D-terminal of the D-type flip-flop 202 via an inverter is a film transportation signal  $\bar{f}$  which becomes low level (L) with a short time delay after the film starts and high level (H) slightly ahead of the stop of the film. According to the rotary encoder checking circuit 193, if divided pulse signals  $\bar{b}$  are interrupted during the film transportation signal  $\bar{f}$  is kept high level(H), the flip-flop 201 outputs at its Q-terminal a high signal (H) as a read-in timing signal to the D-type flip-flop 202. Upon receiving the read-in timing signal, the D-type flip-flop 202 latches an input signal to the D-terminal thereof. Because the D-terminal of the D-type flip-flop 202 receives a high level signal (H) inverted by an inverter 203, The D-type flip-flop circuit 202 outputs a high level signal (H) as a failure signal at its Q-terminal.

For the rotary encoder checking circuit 193, another circuit shown in Fig. 23(B) may be used. As shown, a clock pulse generator 208 provides a clock pulse signal which in turn are fed to an AND gate 209. In a manner similar to that in the circuit shown in Fig. 23(A), the AND gate 209, which receives a film transportation signal  $\bar{f}$ , keeps open itself during the film is continuously transported to transmit the clock pulse signal to an counter 212.

An initial count value of the counter 212 is preset to a value less than a number of pulse signals provided for a period on which a divided pulse signal  $\bar{b}$  is output. Fed to the reset terminal



of the counter 212 is divided pulse signals  $\bar{b}$ . When counting the preset value of clock pulse signals, the counter 212 outputs at its UP-terminal a low level signal (H) to a latch circuit 213 for resetting it.

According to the rotary encoder checking circuit 193 shown in Fig. 23(B), as long as divided pulse signals  $\bar{b}$  provided on periods within a predetermined range, the counter 212 is reset to zero (0) every reception of a divided signal  $\bar{b}$ , so as not to set the latch circuit 213. If divided pulse signals  $\bar{b}$  are interrupted, the counter 212 counts up clock pulse signals over its preset initial count value, so as to set the latch circuit 213 to provide an error signal at the Q-terminal.

Referring to Fig. 24, a further variation of the rotary encoder monitoring circuit shown in Fig. 19 is shown. In this monitoring circuit, a chattering prevention circuit 218 is connected after the photosensor 155 in the monitoring circuit shown in Fig. 19. When detecting notches 153 formed in the rough film 15 by the photosensor 155, it often happens that the photosensor 155 provides false signal due to flutters of the film or folded edges of the film which are superposed upon notch signals  $\bar{k}$ . Such superposed signals, if transmitted to and differentiated by the differential circuit 156, results in wrong synchronizing pulse signals  $\bar{c}$ . To avoid such a problem, the chattering prevention circuit 218 works effectively.

The chattering prevention circuit 218 shown in Fig. 25(A) may be structured as shown in Fig. 25(A). As shown, the chattering prevention circuit 218 consists of two D-type flip-flops 220a and 220b and a NAND gate 212. A notch signal  $\bar{k}$  from the photosensor 155 is fed to D-terminal of the D-type flip-flop 220a and reset terminals of the D-type flip-flops 220a and 220b. The D-type flip-flop 220b is connected at its Q-terminal to an output at a Q-terminal of the D-type flip-flop 220a. Divided pulse signals  $\bar{b}$  from the frequency divider 152 are fed to T-terminals of the D-type flip-flops 220a and 220b. Both of outputs from the Q-terminals of the D-type flip-flops 220a and 220b are fed to the NAND gate 221.

As shown in Fig. 25(B), the NAND gate 221 provides a signal  $\bar{n}$  that falls down upon the D-type flip-flops 220a and 220b receive two divided pulse signals  $\bar{b}$ , respectively, after the photosensor 155 detects a notch 153 and provides a notch signal  $\bar{k}$  and rising up to a high level (H) upon the falling of the notch signal  $\bar{k}$  to a low level (L). That is, unless the notch signal  $\bar{k}$  is kept in a high level (H) for a time period within which at least two divided pulse signals  $\bar{b}$  are fed to the D-type flip-flops 220a and 220b, the NAND gate 221 does not provide a pulse signal  $\bar{n}$ . Accordingly, if notch signals  $\bar{k}$  are intermittently provided at intervals shorter than the two cycle of divided pulse signal  $\bar{b}$ , the intermission of

notch signals  $\bar{k}$  is neglected as being caused due to chattering.

The NAND gate 221 sends the pulse signal  $\bar{n}$  to the differential circuit 156 where the rising or trailing edge of the pulse signal  $\bar{n}$  is detected and used as a synchronizing signal  $\bar{c}$ . The number of the D-type flip-flops connected one after another should be determined in the consideration of the period of divided pulse signal  $\bar{b}$  and the length of the notch 153 (the width of a notch signal  $\bar{k}$ ) and in accordance with the demand how many cyclic divided pulse signals  $\bar{b}$  be provided for a period of maintaining the notch signal  $\bar{k}$  in a high level (H) after which a synchronizing pulse signal  $\bar{c}$  should be provided.

Otherwise, the chattering prevention circuit 218 may be structured as shown in Fig. 25(B). In this circuit, a counter 222 is set to an initial count value loaded by means of a count value presetting unit 223 and start counting when the photosensor 155 detects a notch 153 to provide a high level of notch signal  $\bar{k}$ . When the counter 222 counts up divided pulse signals as many as the preset initial count value, it outputs a high level (H) of signal 1 to an AND gate 224. In this embodiment, unless the notch signal  $\bar{k}$  is kept in a high level (H) for a time period within which at least the same number of divided pulse signals  $\bar{b}$  as the preset initial count value are counted by the counter 222, the AND gate 224 does not provide a pulse signal  $\bar{n}$ . Accordingly, the chattering prevention circuit 218 thus structured performs the same functions as that shown in Fig. 25(A). It is of course that the initial count value set in the count value presetting unit 223 may be selected in consideration of the period on which a dividing pulse signal be provided and the width of notch signal.

Although the present invention has been fully described by way of the preferred embodiment thereof with reference to the accompanying drawings, it is to be noted that various changes and modifications are apparent to those skilled in the art. Therefore, unless otherwise these changes and modifications depart from the scope of the present invention, they should be construed as included therein.

## Claims

1. A bar code printing apparatus for printing a latent image of a bar code in a lengthwise side margin of a film continuously transported in a lengthwise direction by the use of a light emitting element array, said apparatus comprising: a rotary encoder driven by said moving film to output encoder pulse signals in different two phases;

a direction discrimination means for detecting a direction in which said film is transported based on said encoder pulse signals to output a forward direction pulse signal indicating that said film is transported in a forward direction and a reverse direction pulse signal indicating that said film is transported in a reverse direction every predetermined length of transportation of said film;  
 an up-down counter for counting up either one of said forward direction and reverse direction pulse signals and down the other, thereby correctively regulating a transported length of said film in said lengthwise direction;  
 said direction discrimination means comprising:  
 a clock pulse generating circuit for generating clock pulse signals on a frequency higher than that on which said encoder pulse signal is output;  
 a first delay circuit for delaying slightly said clock pulse signal to output it as a delayed clock pulse signal;  
 a latch circuit for latching at least one of said encoder pulse signals in different phases in synchronism with said clock pulse signal to output a transportation signal;  
 a second delay circuit for delaying said transportation signal; and  
 two AND gates, each connected to said first and second delay circuits and said latch circuit, for outputting said forward direction pulse signal and said reverse direction pulse signal, respectively.

2. A bar code printing apparatus for printing a latent image of a bar code in a lengthwise side margin of a film continuously transported in a lengthwise direction by the use of a light emitting element array, said apparatus comprising:  
 a rotary encoder driven by said moving film to output encoder pulse signals in different two phases;

a direction discrimination means for detecting a direction in which said film is transported based on said encoder pulse signals to output a forward direction pulse signal indicating that said film is transported in a forward direction and a reverse direction pulse signal indicating that said film is transported in a reverse direction every predetermined length of transportation of said film;  
 an up-down counter for counting up either one of said forward direction and reverse direction pulse signals and down the other, thereby correctively regulating a transported length of said film in said lengthwise direction;  
 said direction discrimination means comprising:  
 a clock pulse generating circuit for generating clock pulse signals on a frequency higher than that on which said encoder pulse signal is output;  
 a latch circuit for latching at least one of said encoder pulse signals in two different phases in synchronism with said clock pulse signal to output

a transporting condition signal; and  
 two monostable multivibrators, each triggered by said transporting condition signal, for outputting said forward direction pulse signal and said reverse direction pulse signal, respectively, on a frequency lower than that on which said clock pulse signal is generated.

3. A bar code printing apparatus for printing a latent image of a bar code in a lengthwise side margin of a film continuously transported in a lengthwise direction by the use of a light emitting element array, said apparatus comprising:

a transportation pulse generating means for generating transportation pulse signals of which the number is corresponding to a transported length of said film;

a count means for counting a predetermined number of said transportation pulse signals to output a latch signal;

a synchronizing signal generating means for generating a synchronizing signal for a predetermined transported length of said film; and

a monitoring means for monitoring operating conditions of said transportation pulse generating means based on whether said transportation pulse generating means receives said latch signal from said count means at a timing of generation of said synchronizing signal.

4. A bar code printing apparatus for printing a latent image of a bar code in a lengthwise side margin of a film continuously transported in a lengthwise direction by the use of a light emitting element array which consists of a plurality of light emitting units, each said light emitting unit including a plurality of light emitting elements for emitting and mixing light having different wavelengths so as to provide monocolour printing light, each said light emitting unit comprising:

a light source circuit consisting of at least two in-series circuits one of which includes at least two of said light emitting elements connected in parallel, and a color tone regulating circuit having a variable resistor and a light emitting element connected in series, said color tone regulating circuit being connected to one of said in-series circuits in parallel;

a regulating means for regulating an output voltage of a power source for supplying current to energize said light emitting elements so as to control the quantity of light from said light emitting elements; and

a switching element for actuating said light emitting elements all at once.

FIG. 1

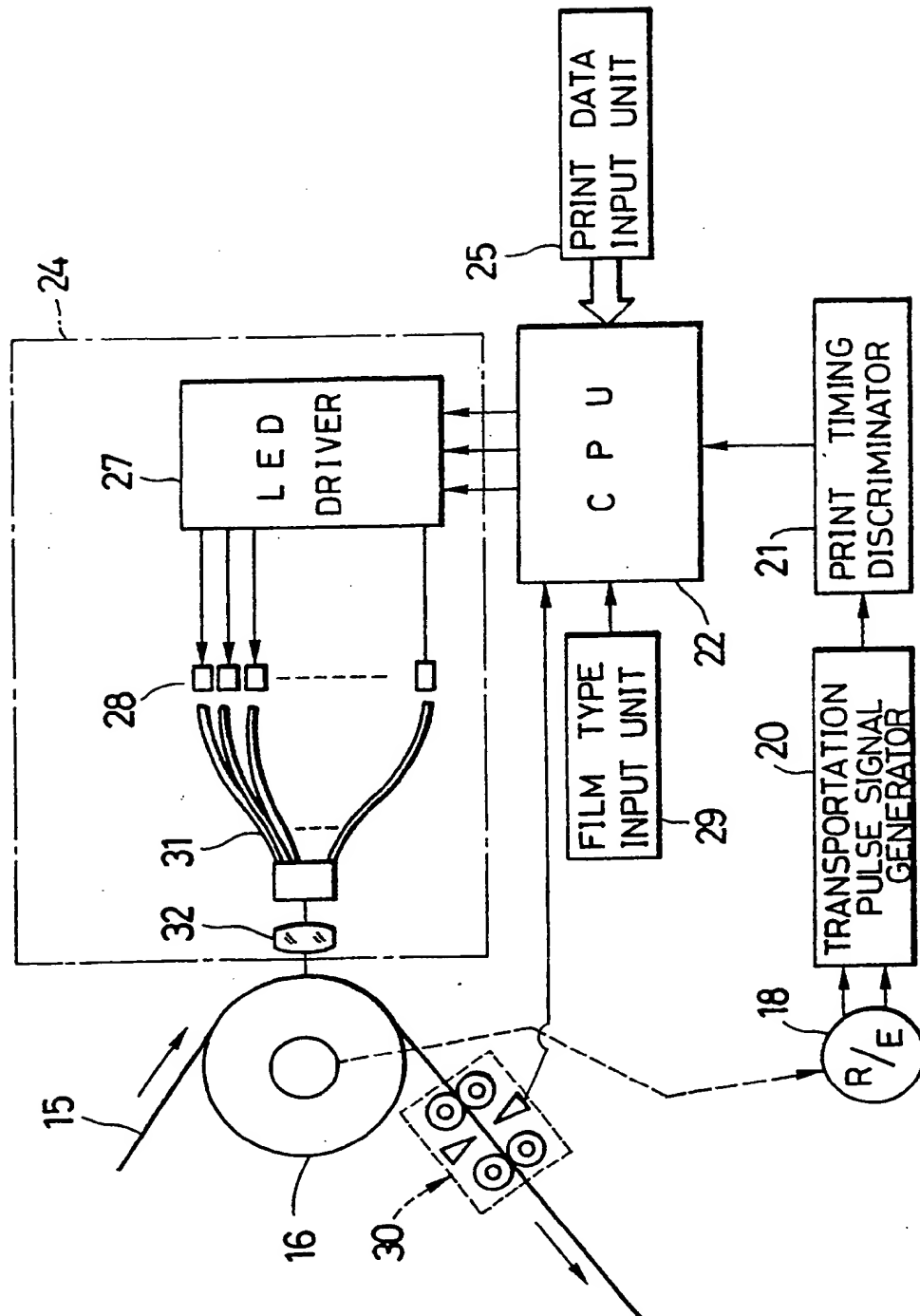
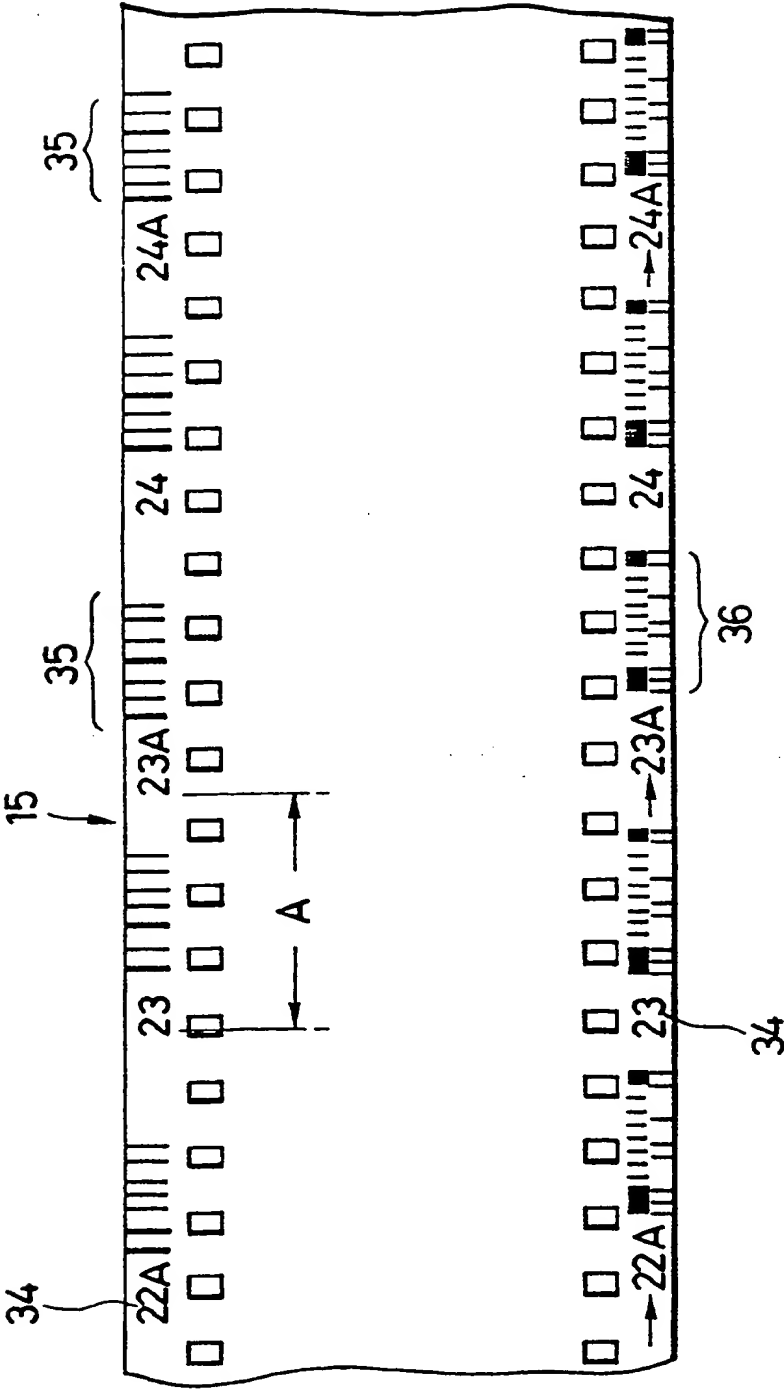


FIG. 2



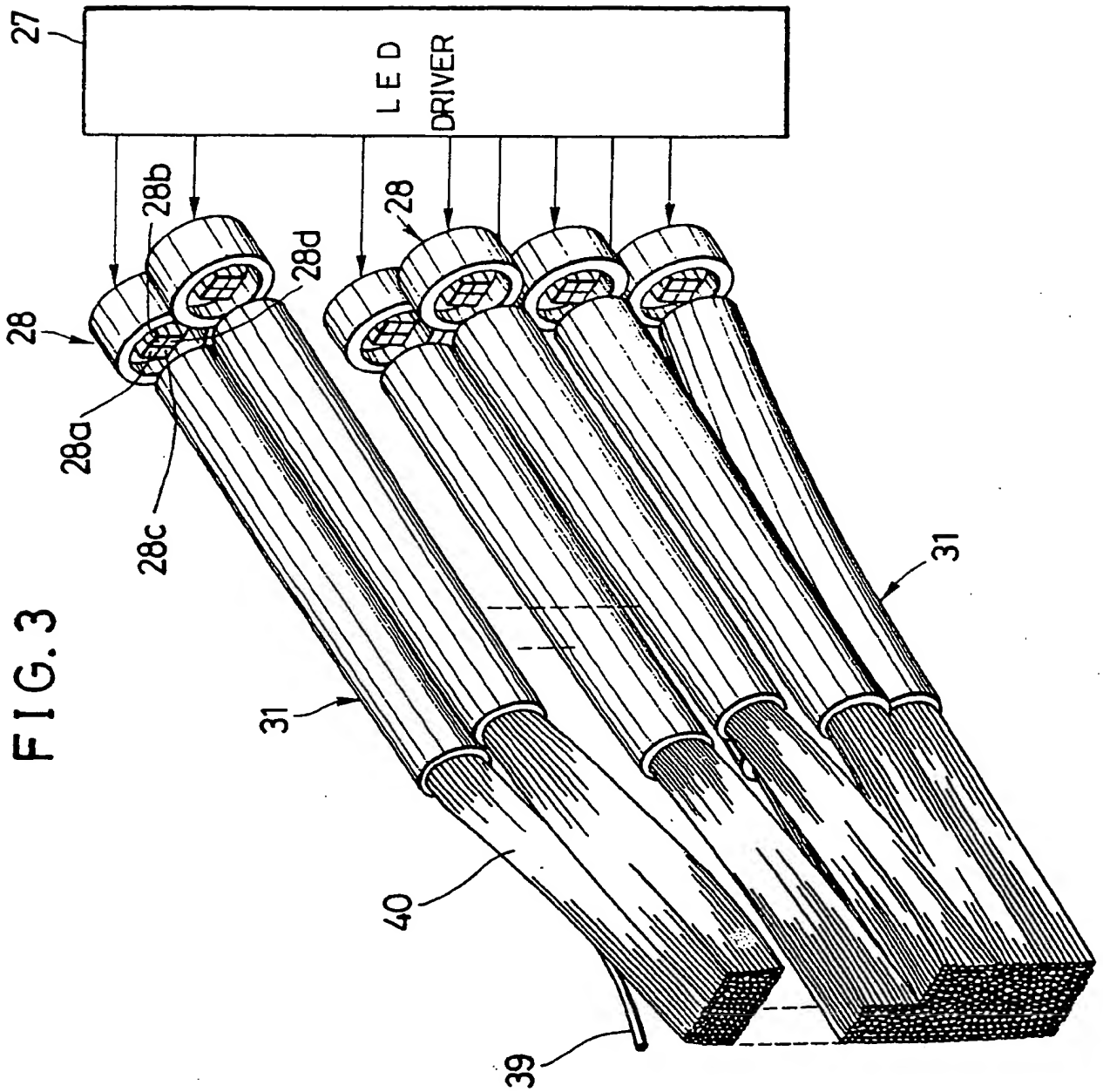


FIG. 4

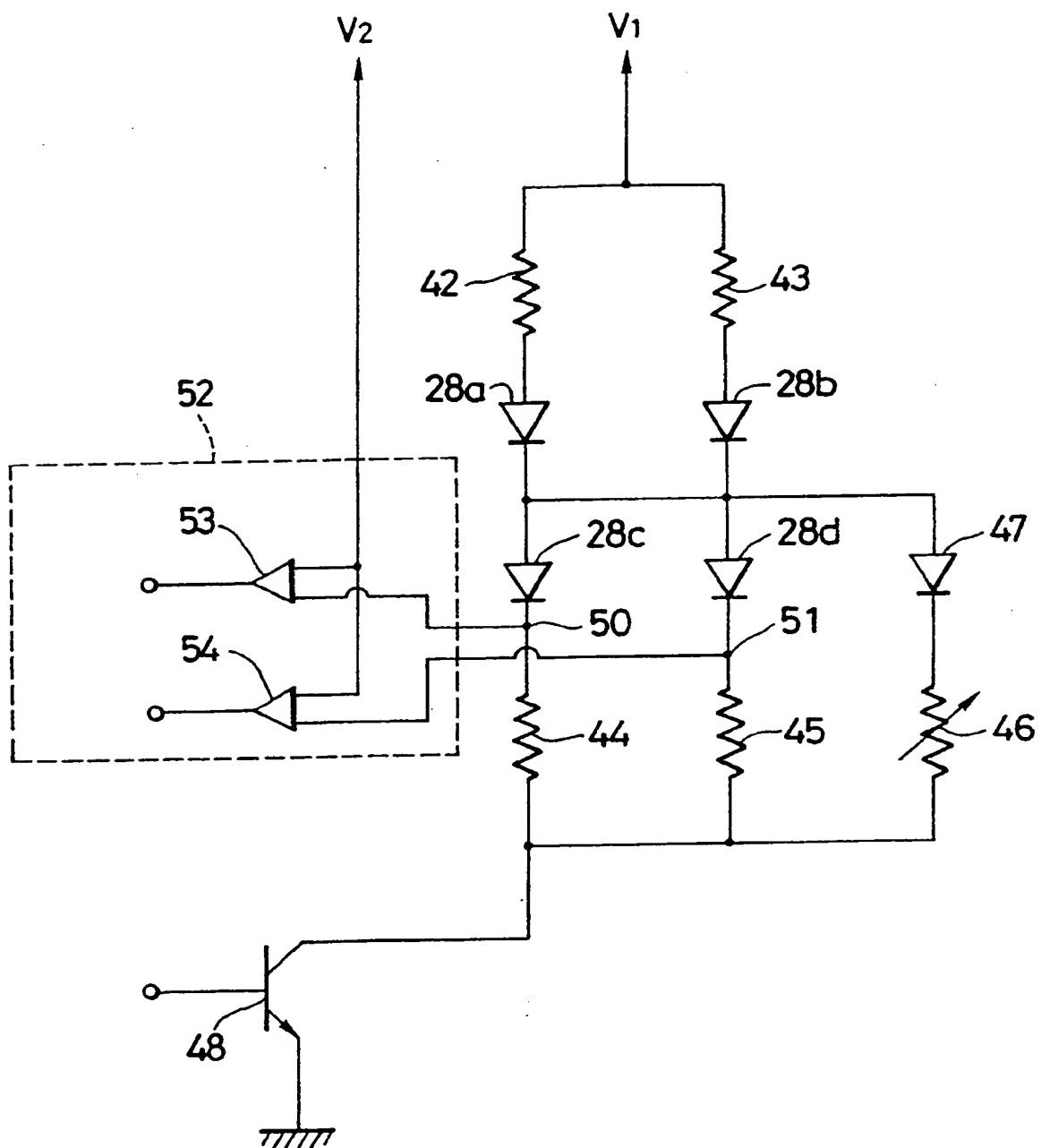


FIG. 5

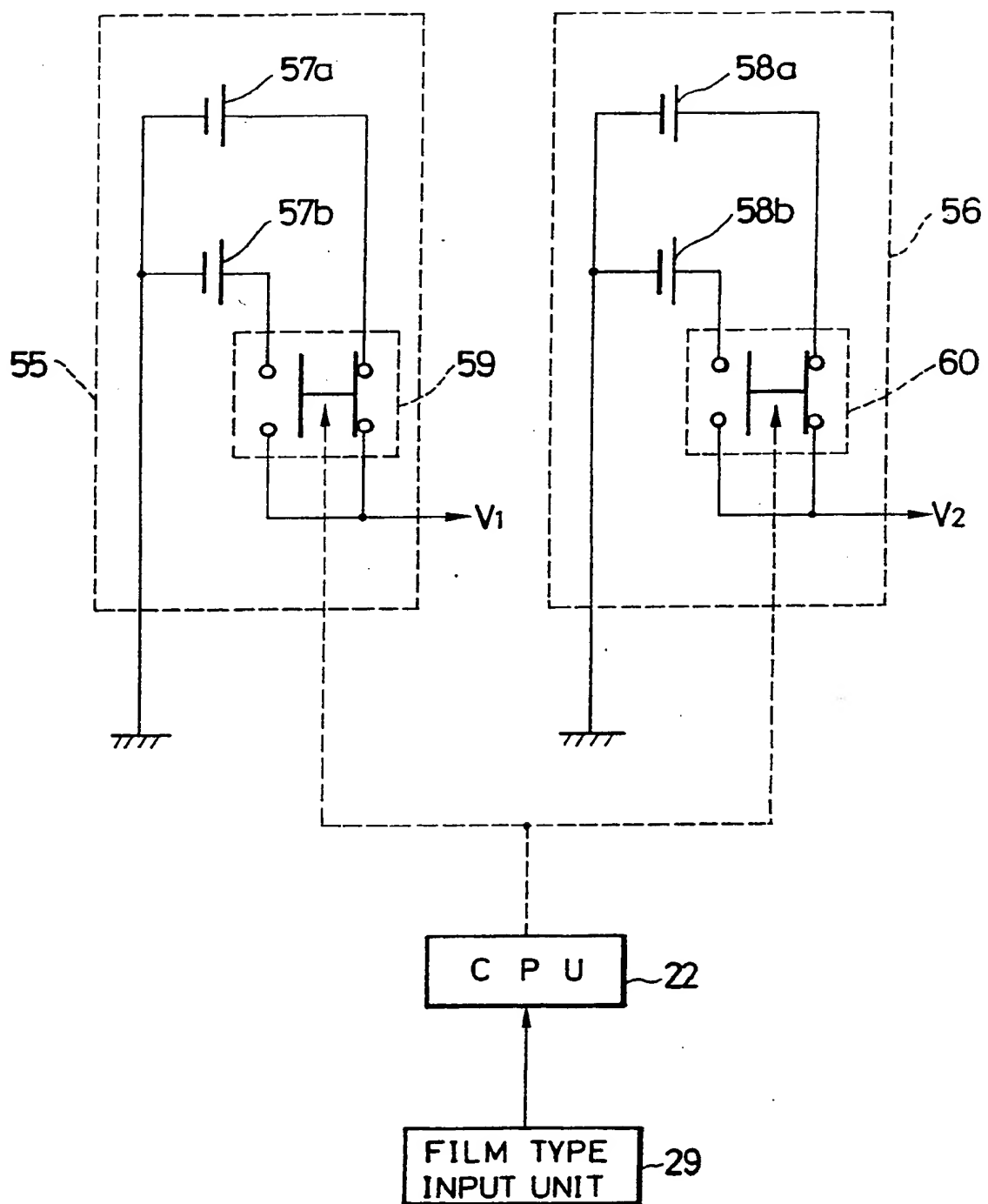






FIG. 7

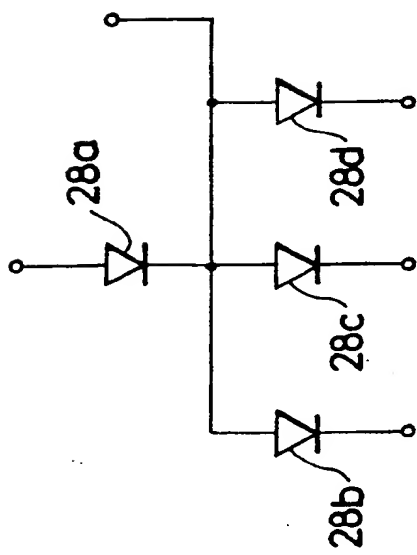


FIG. 8

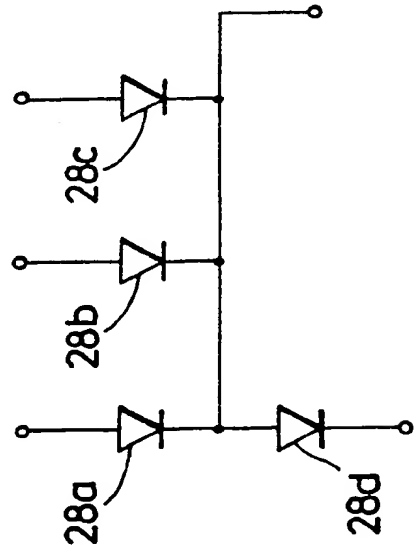


FIG. 27  
(PRIOR ART)

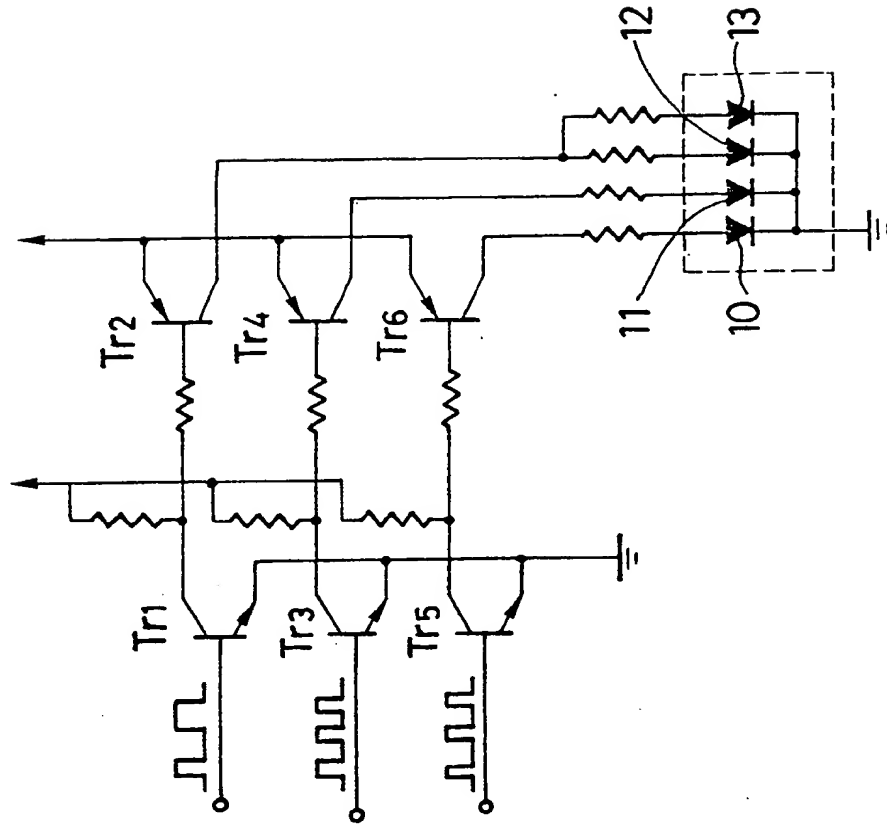


FIG. 9

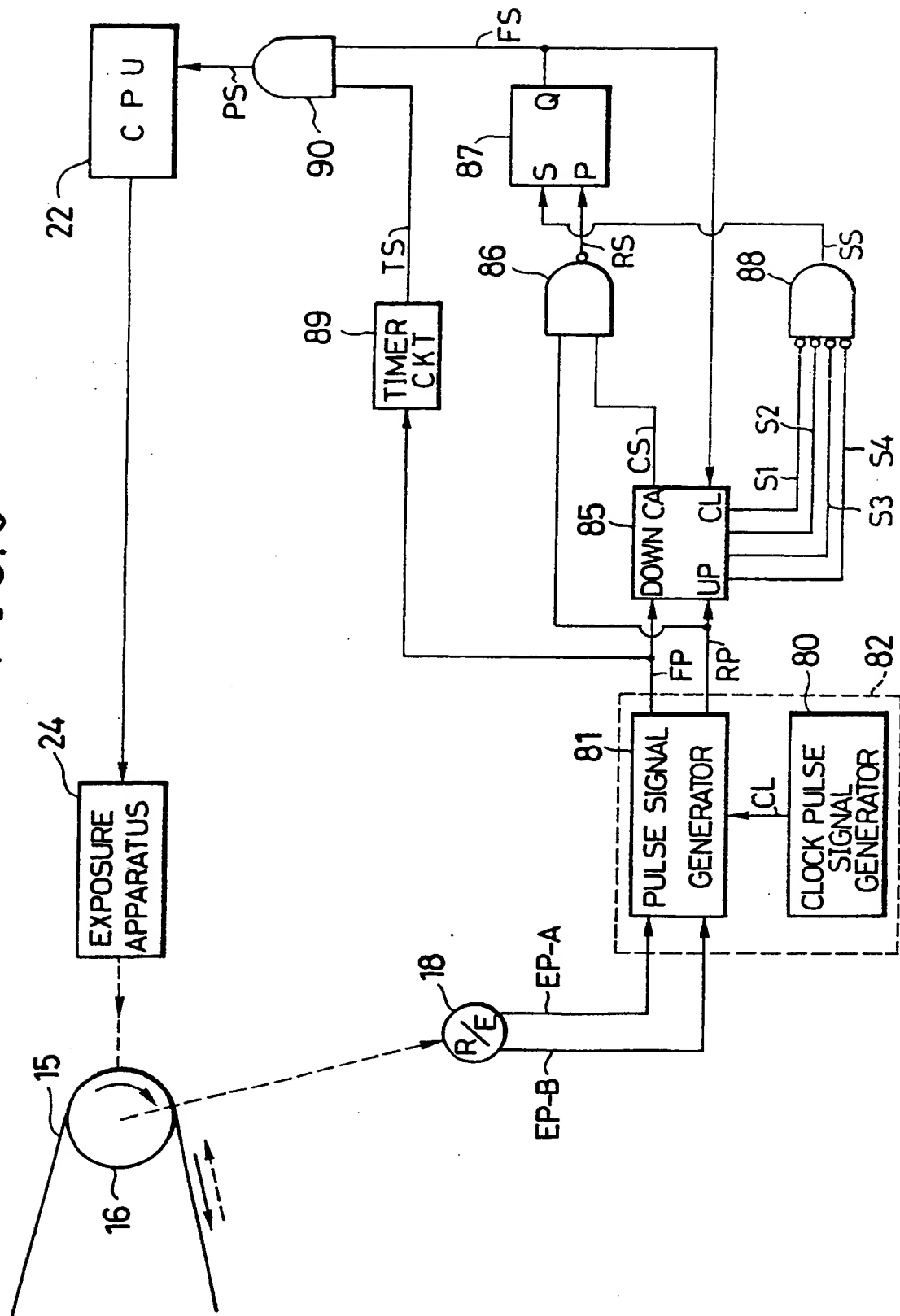


FIG.10

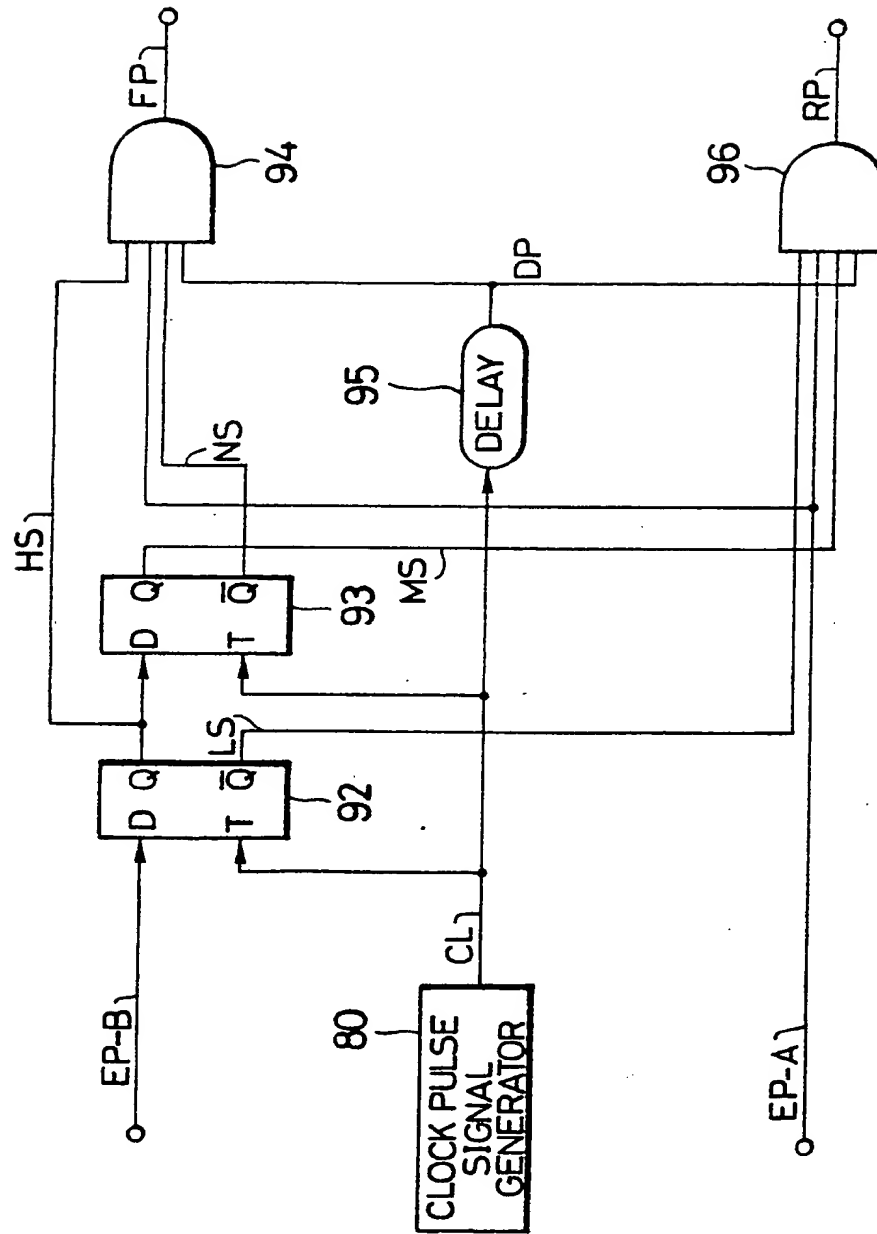


FIG.11

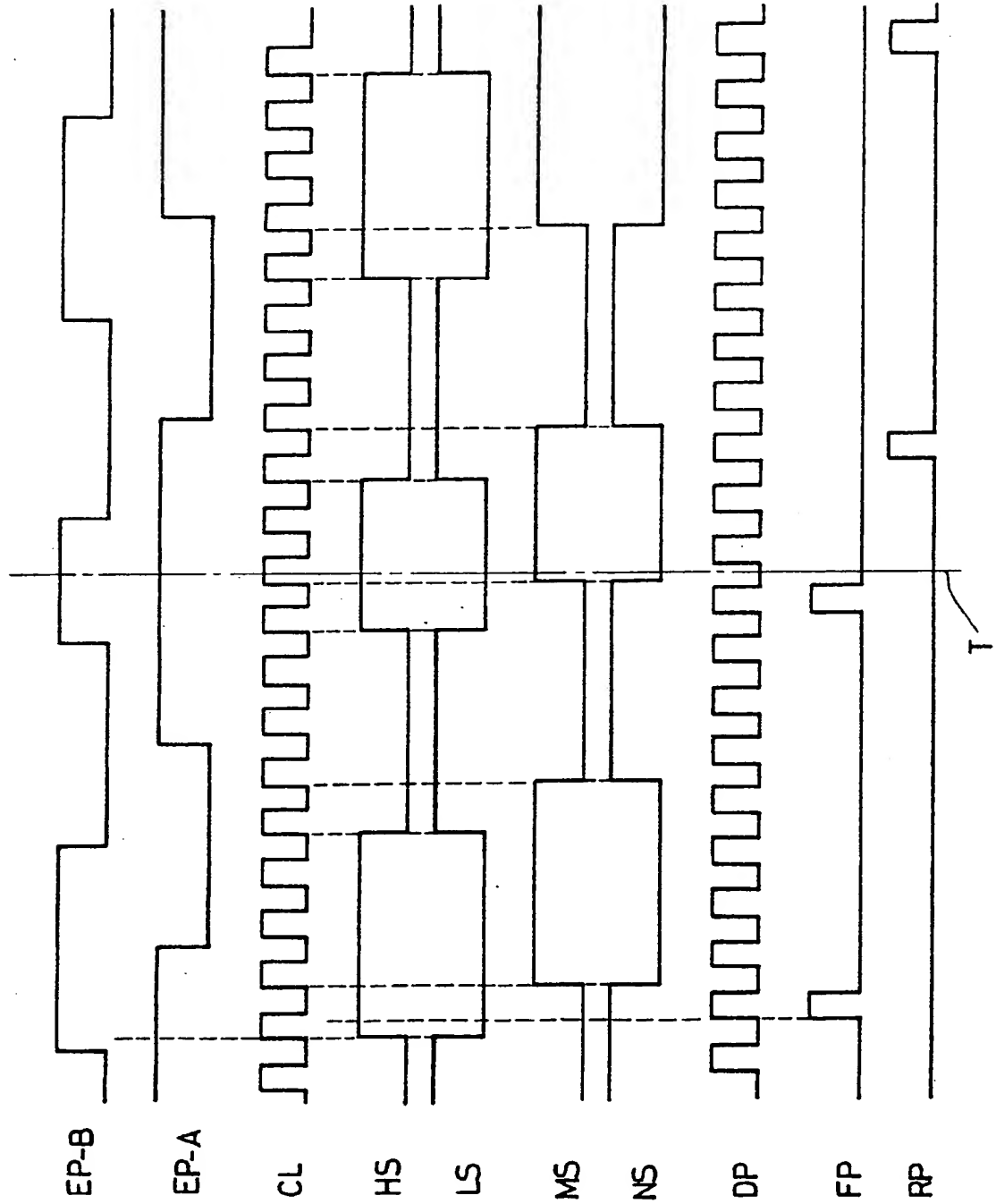


FIG. 12

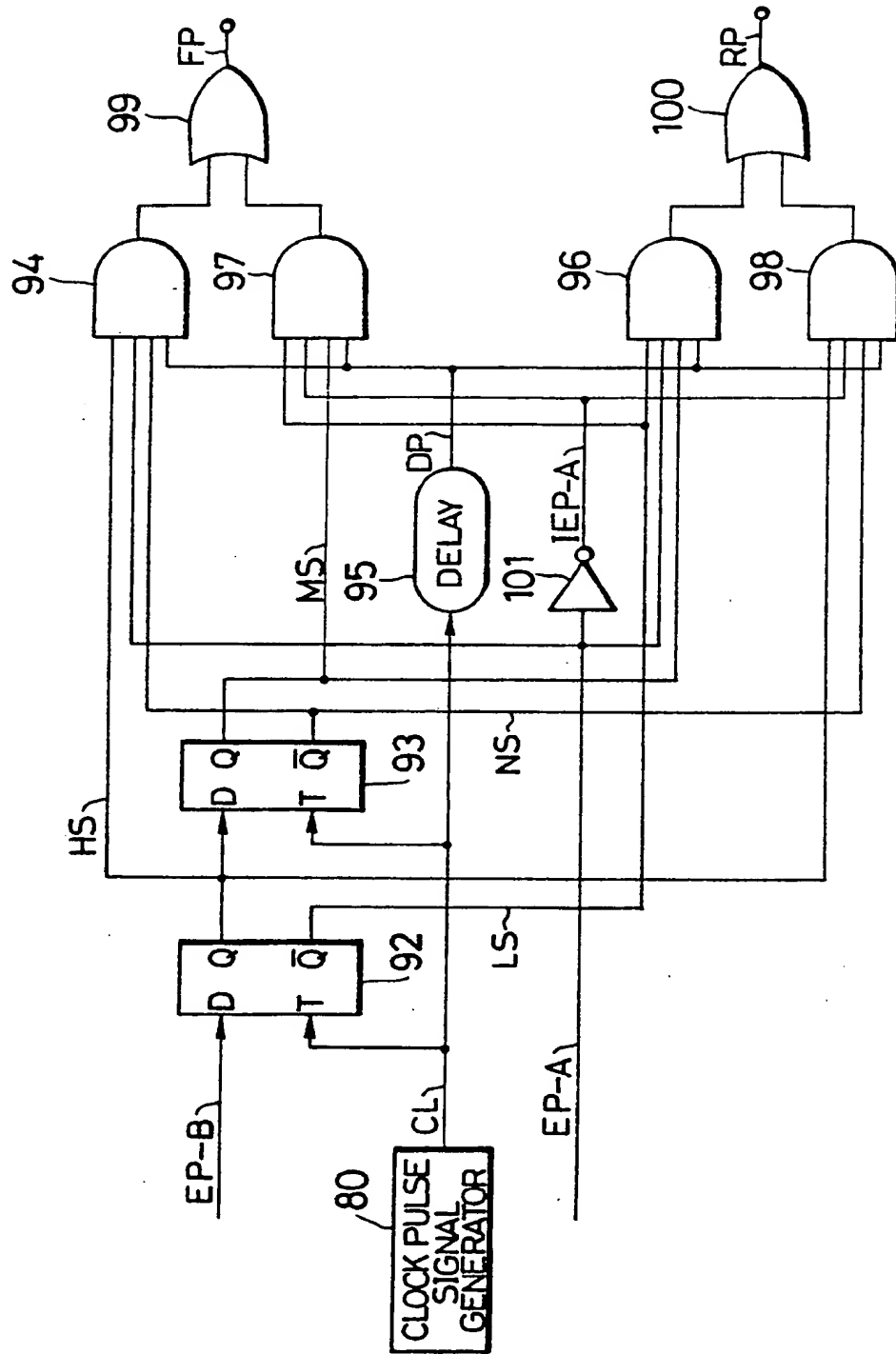


FIG. 13

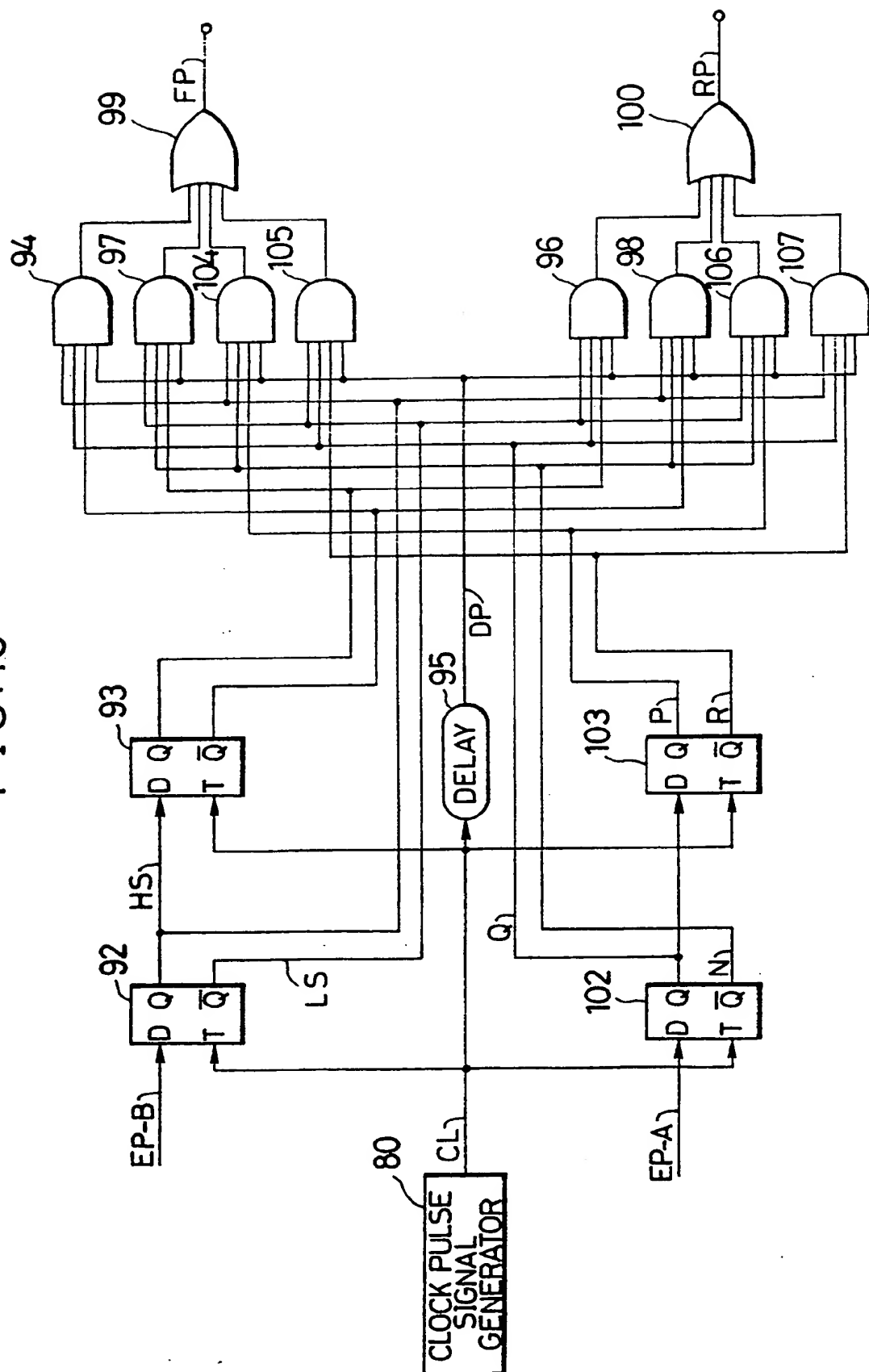




FIG. 14

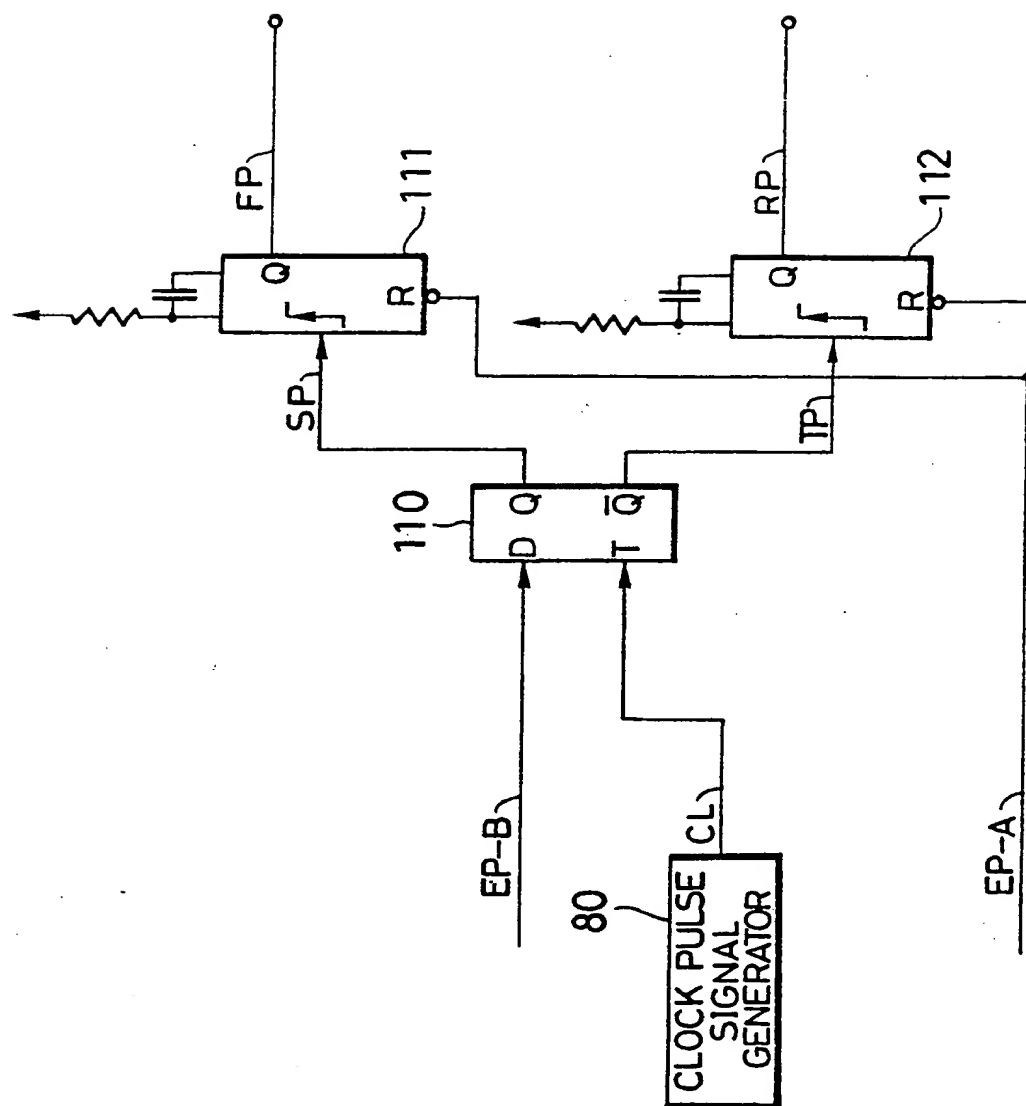


FIG. 15

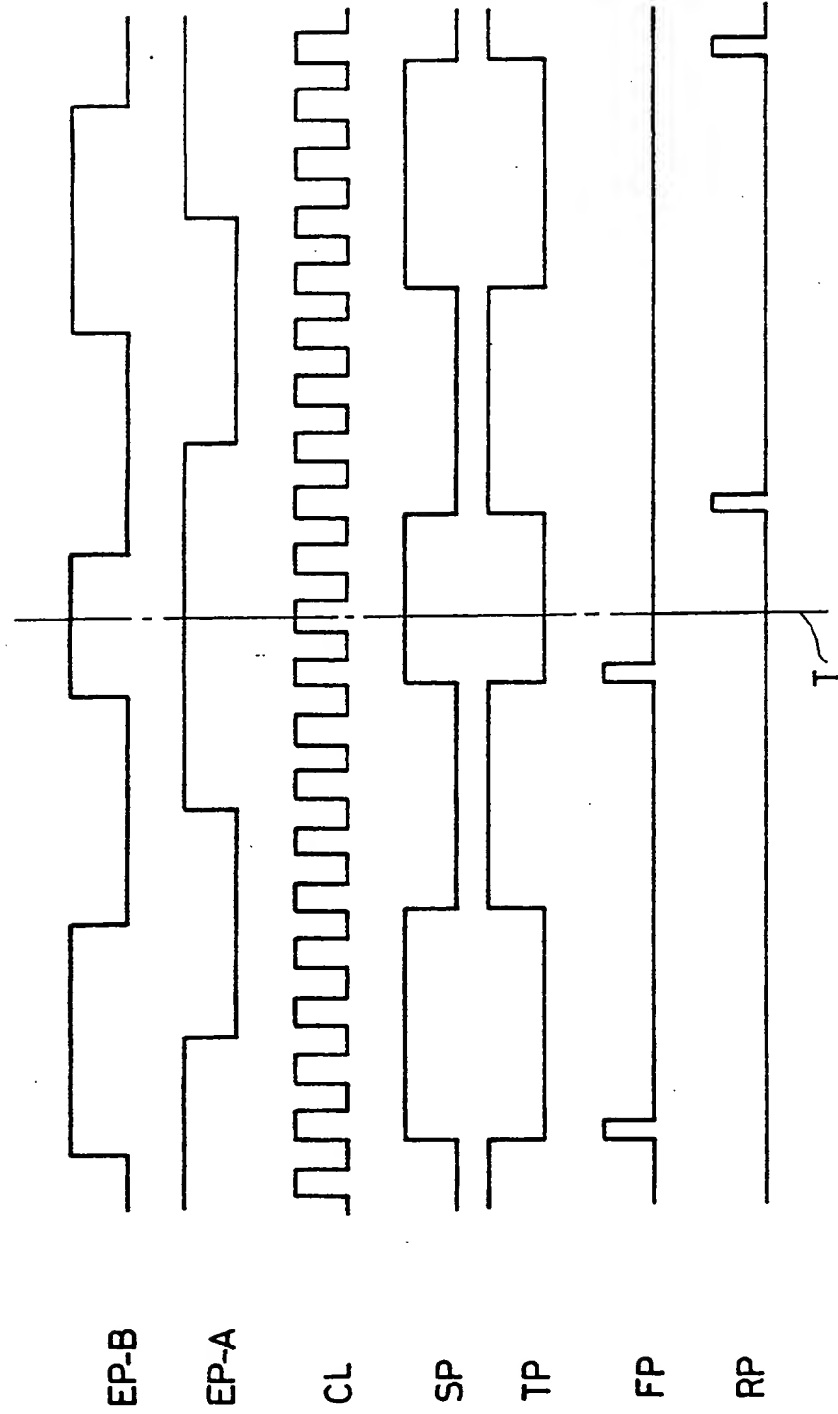


FIG. 16

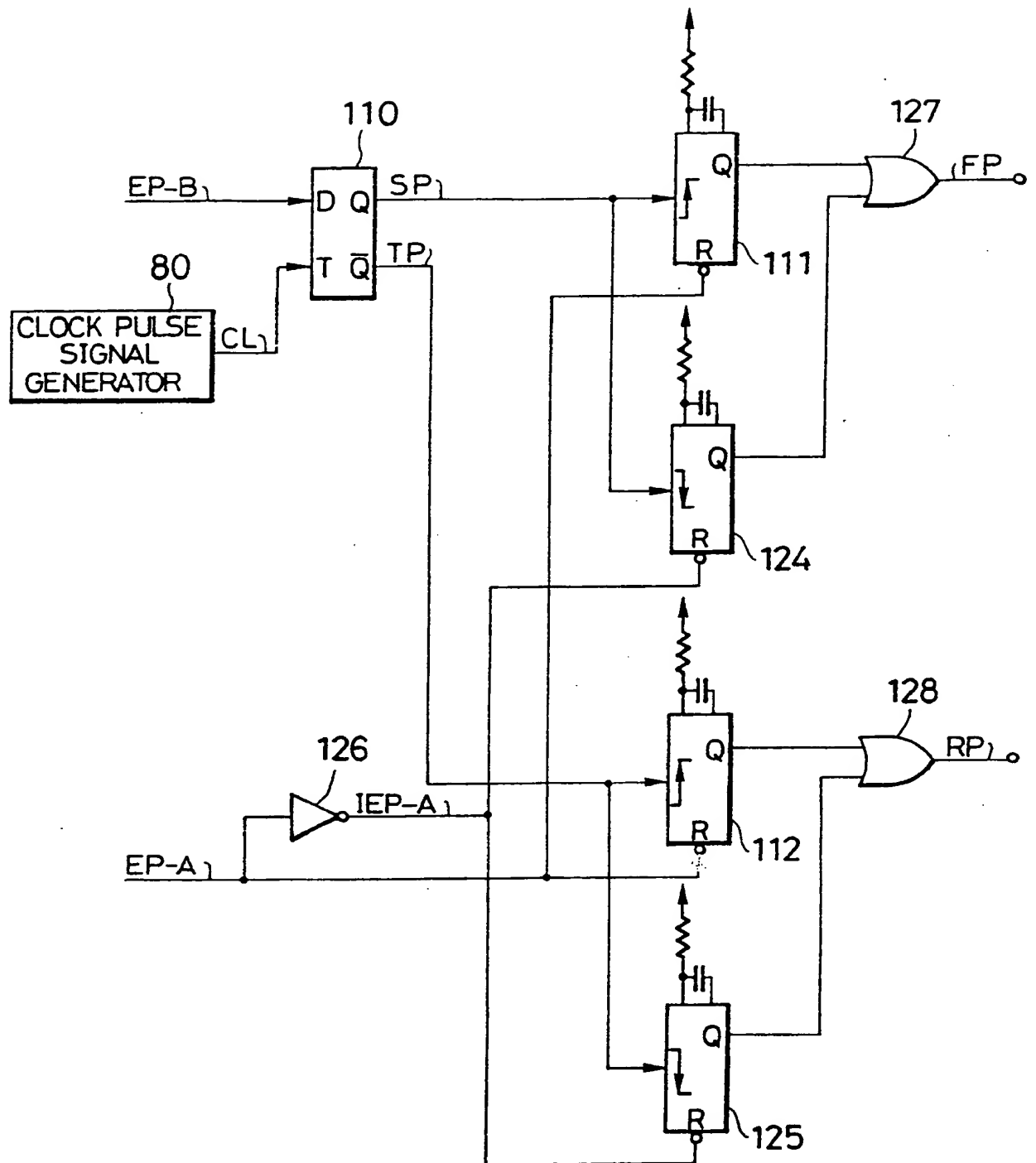


FIG. 17

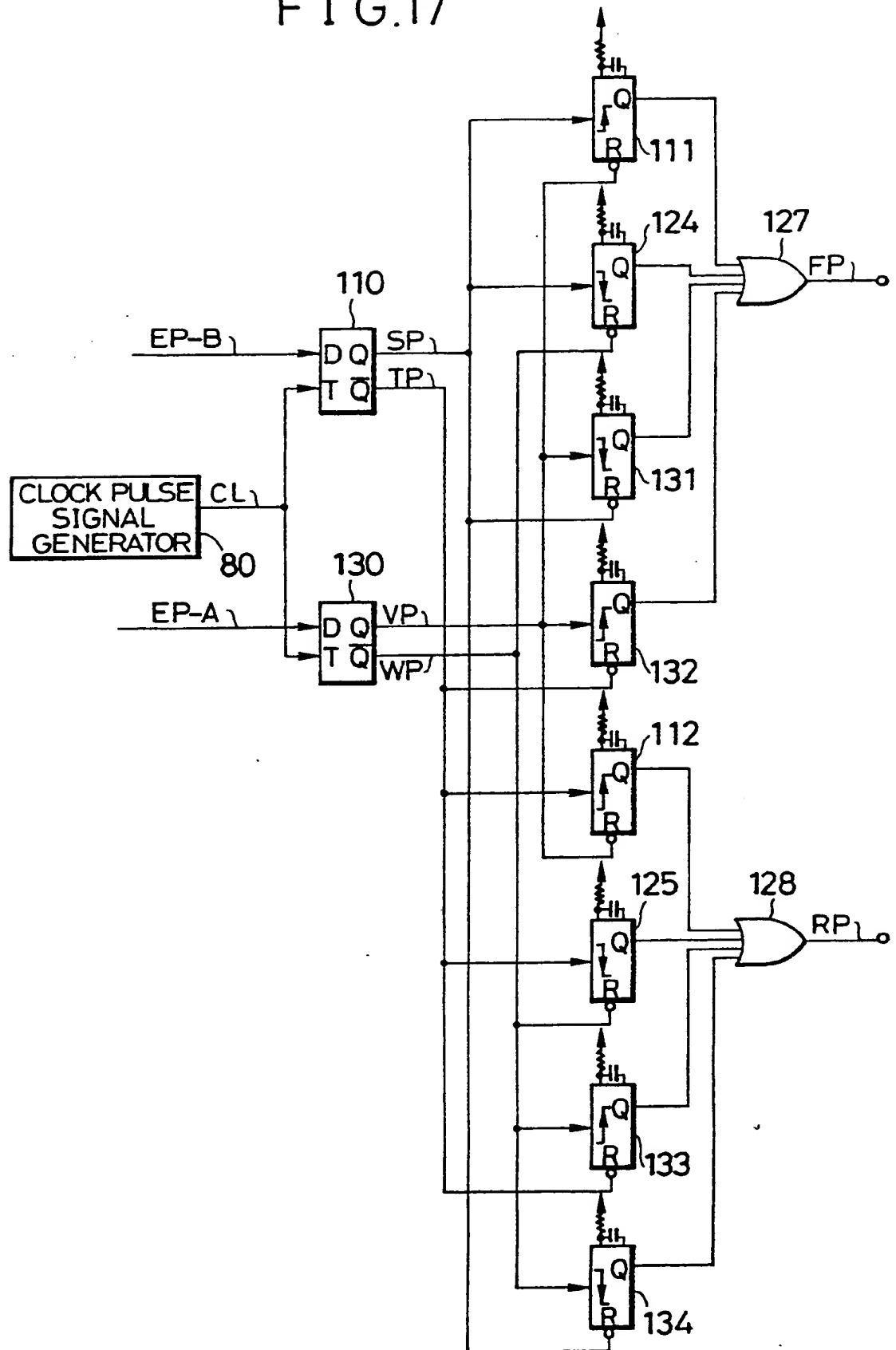


FIG. 18

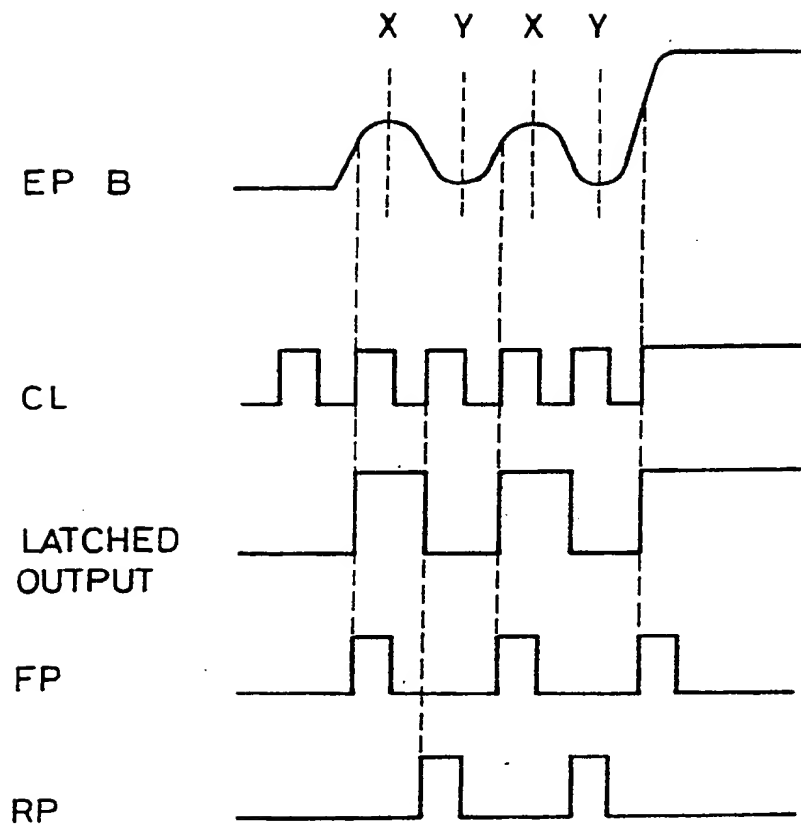


FIG. 19

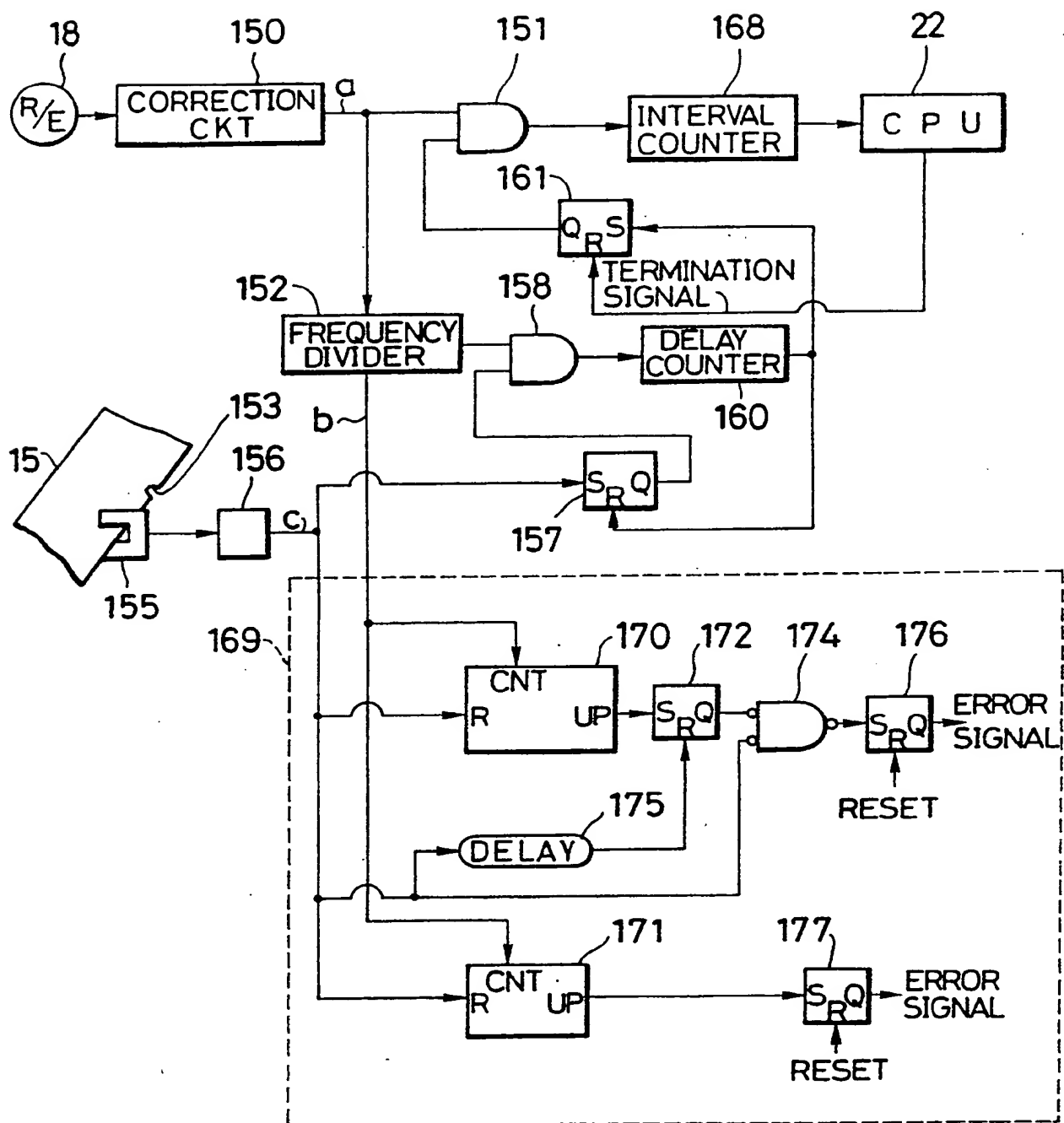


FIG. 21

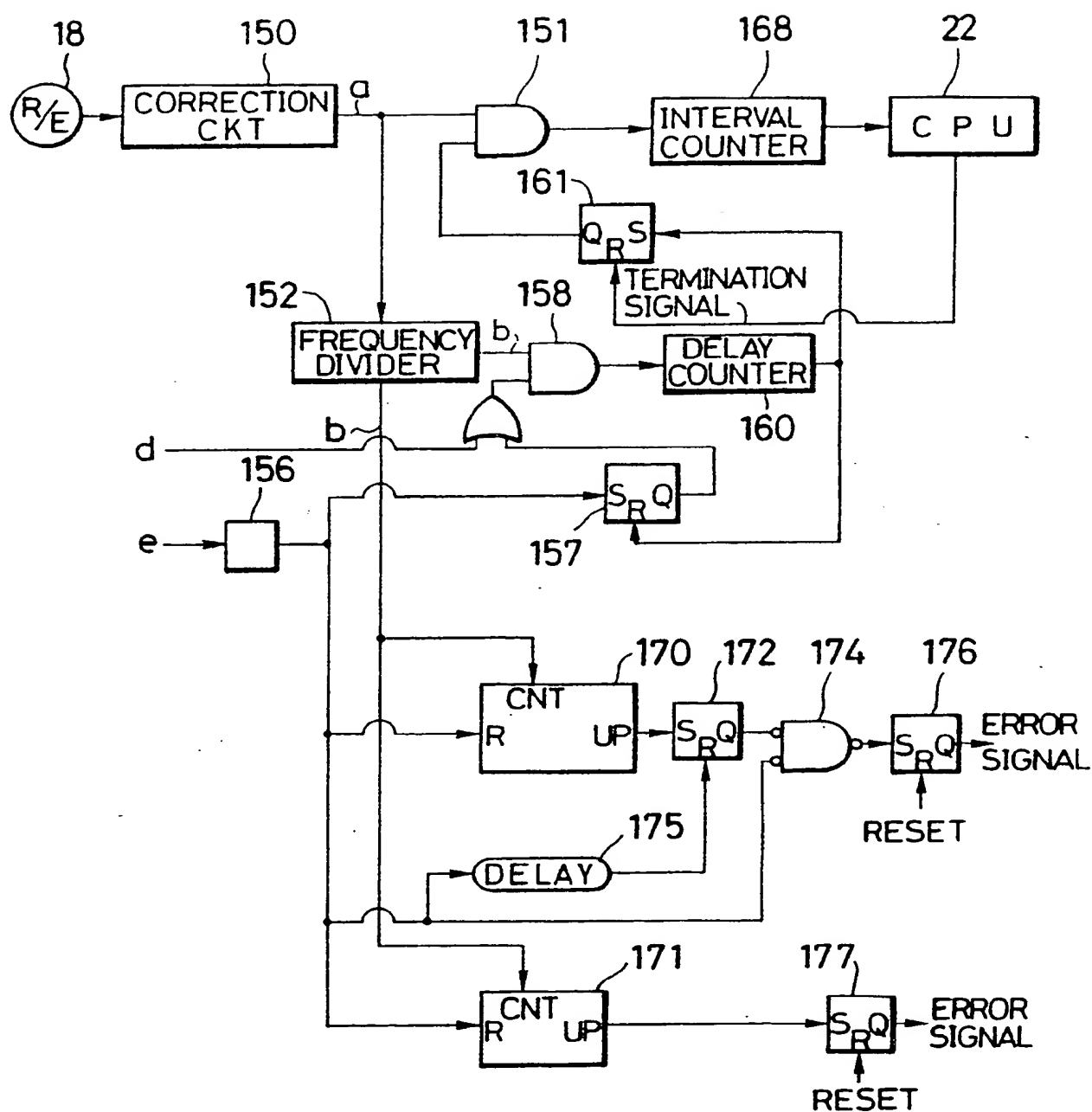




FIG. 20

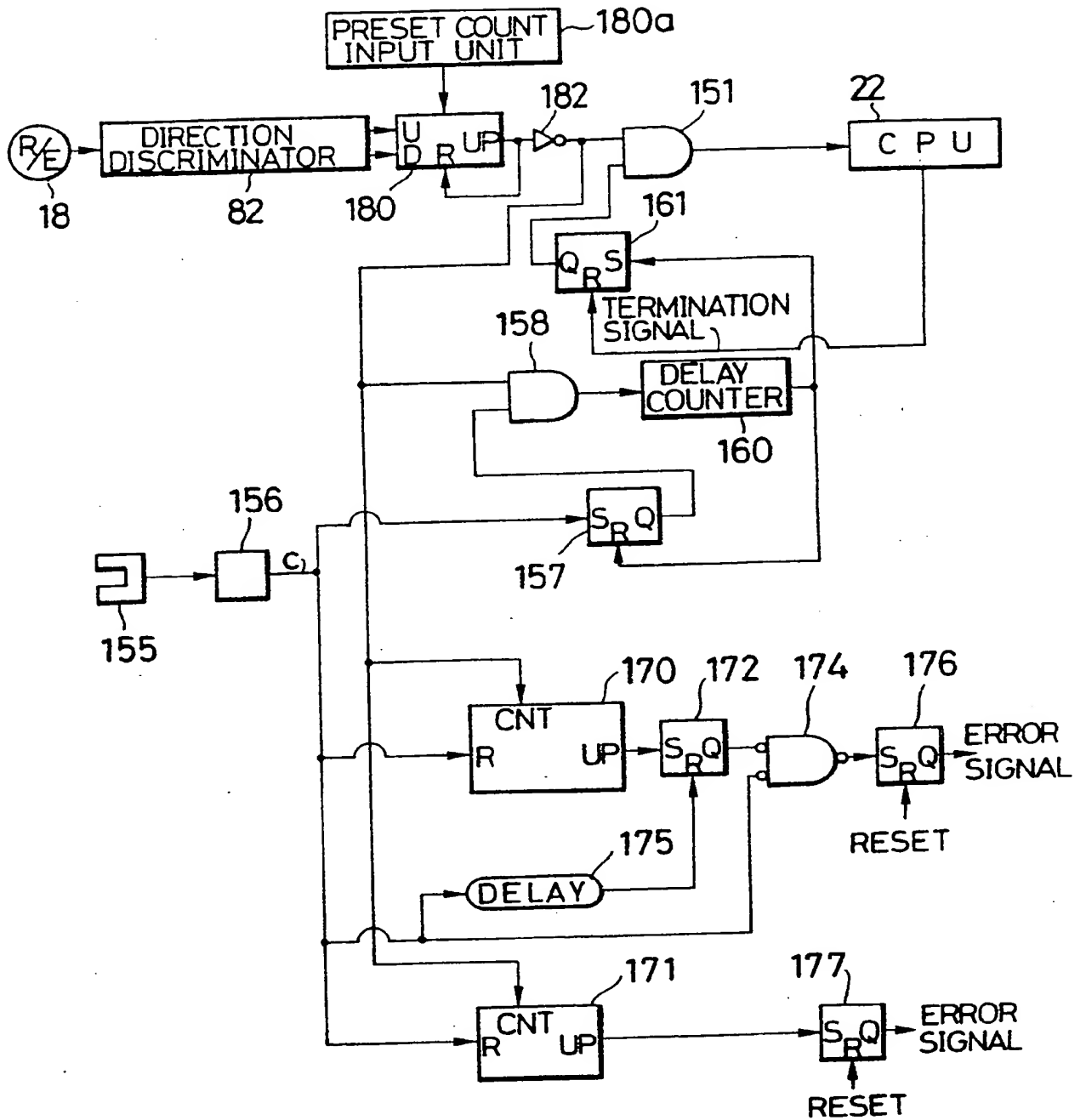


FIG. 22

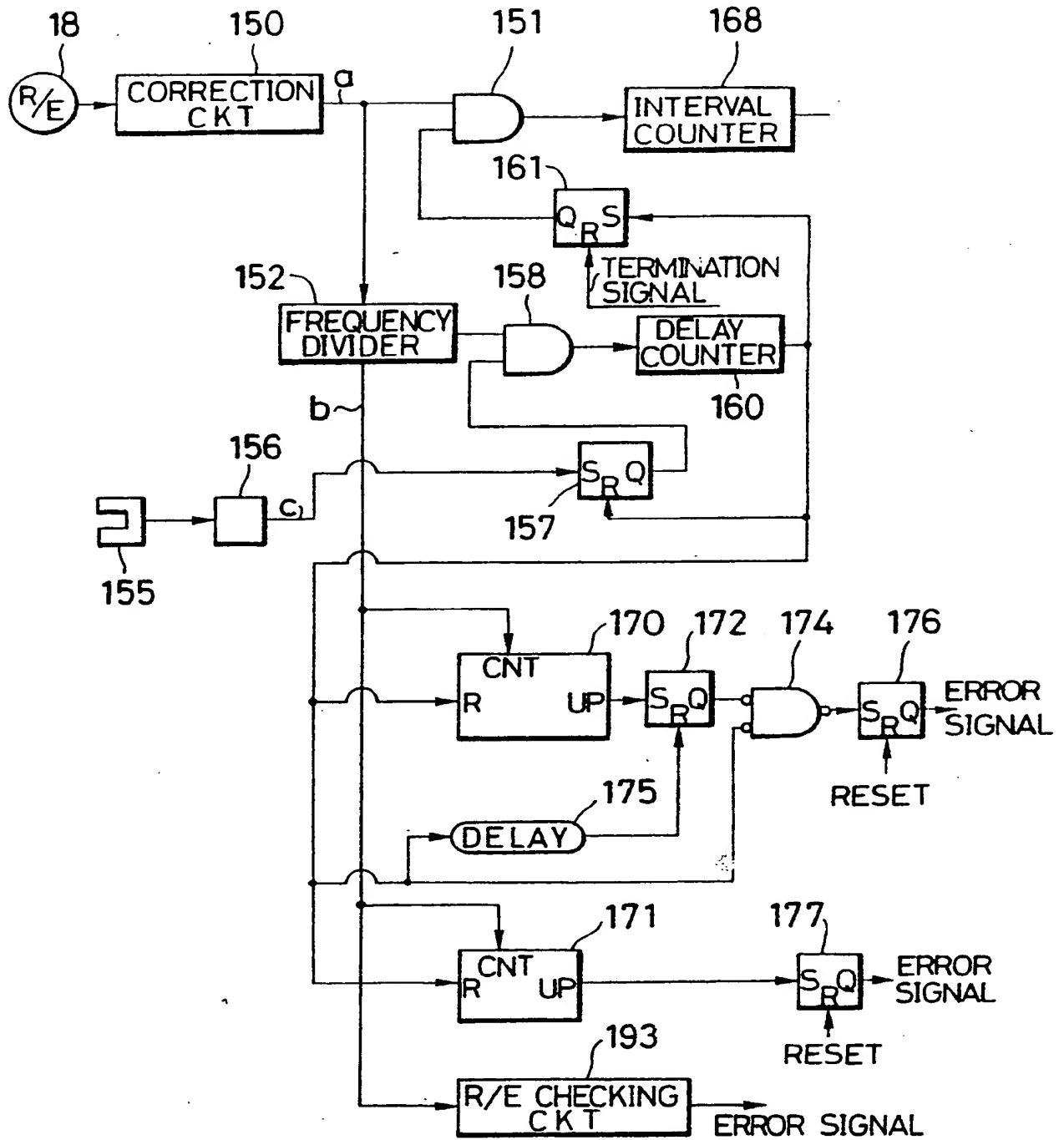


FIG. 23

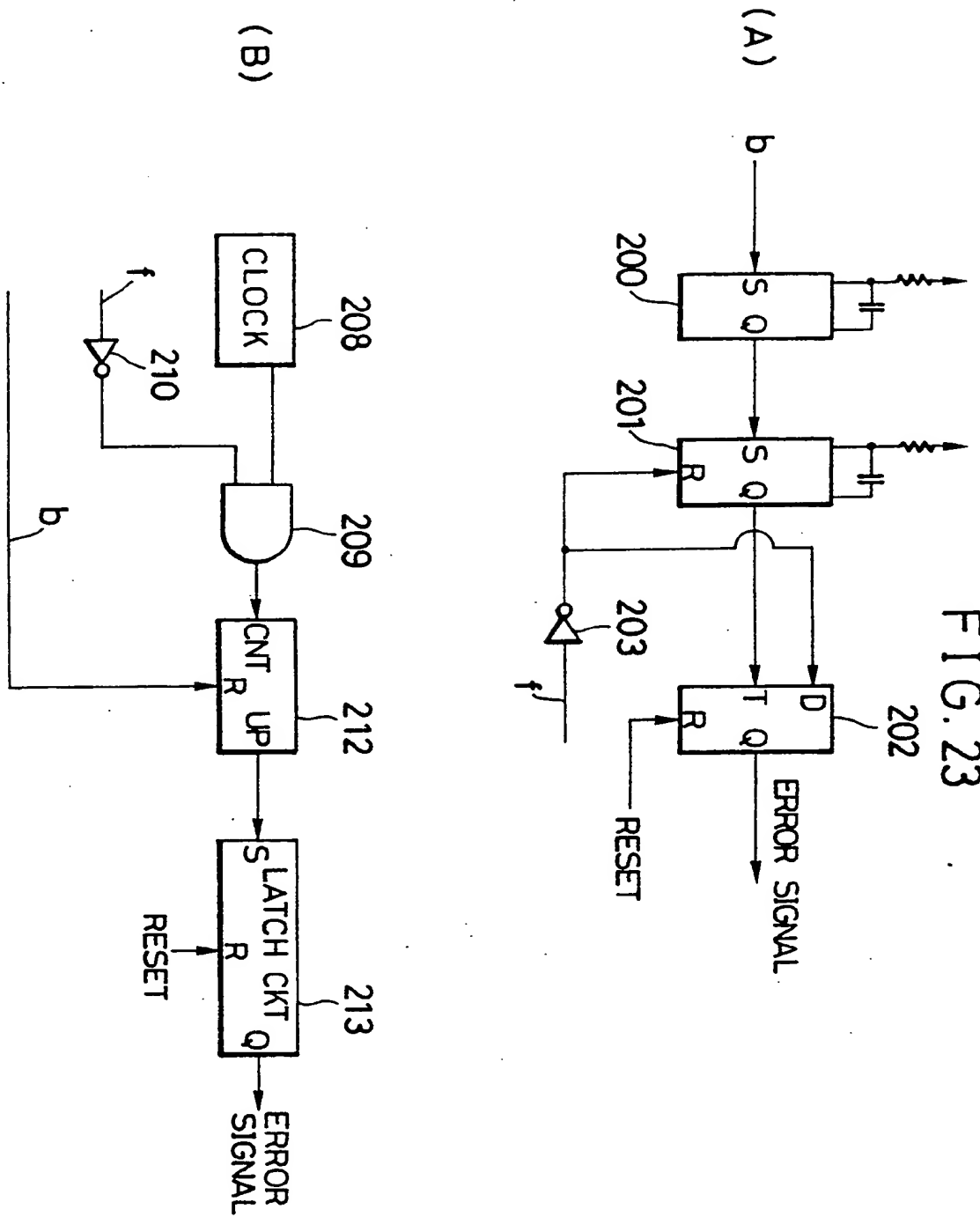


FIG. 24

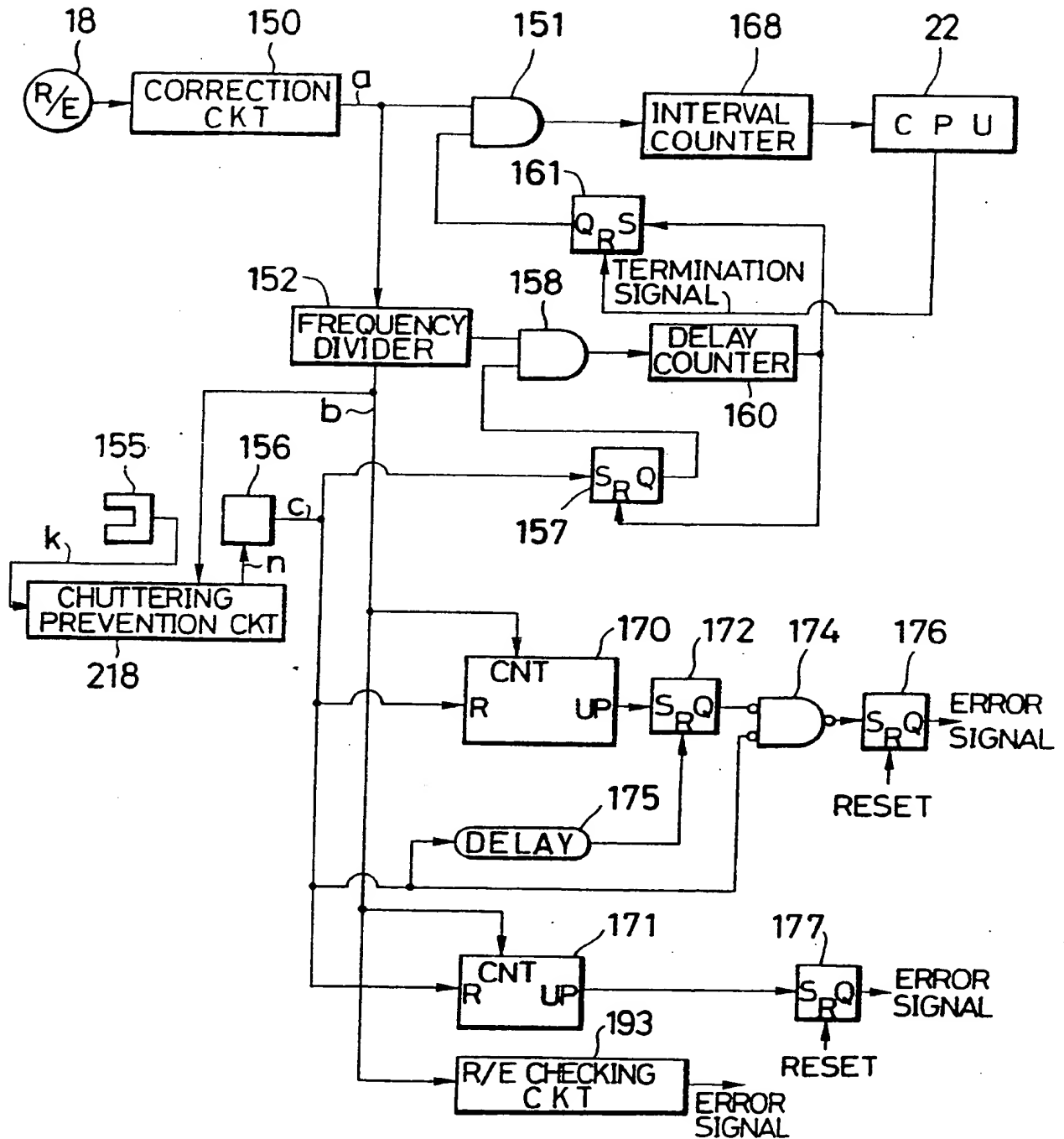


FIG. 25

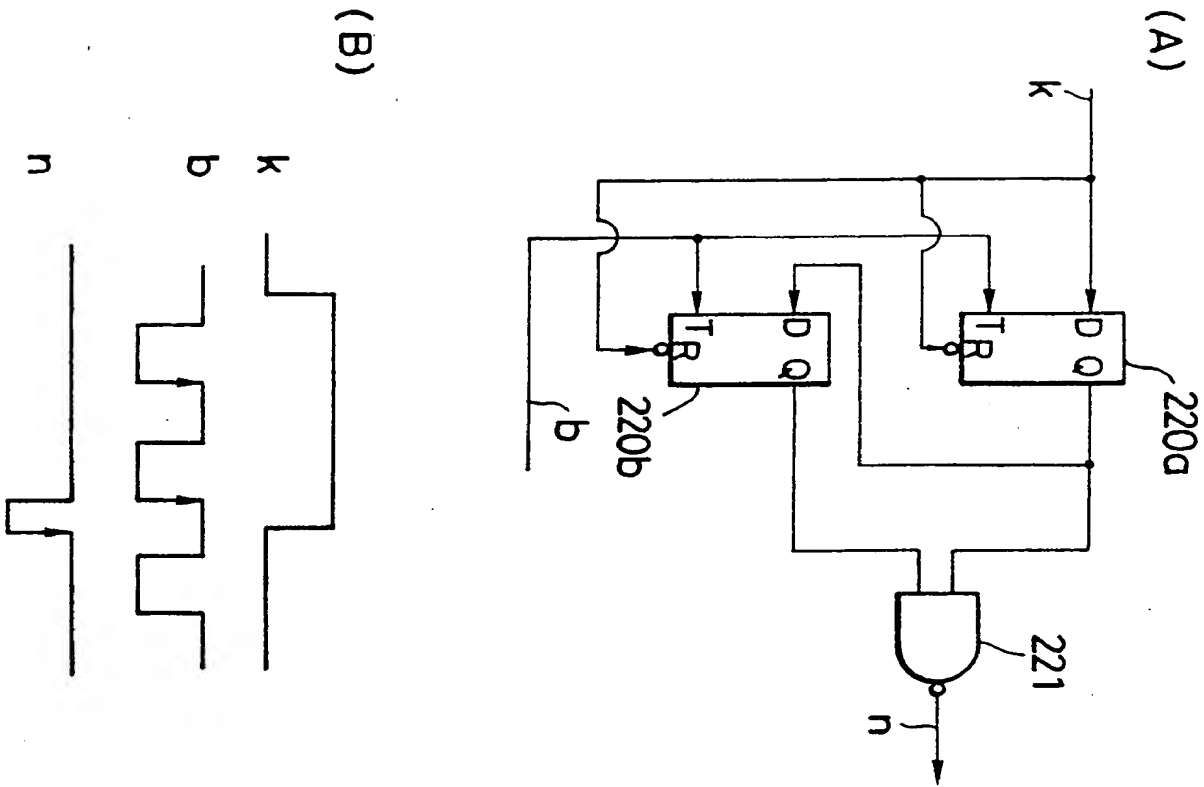
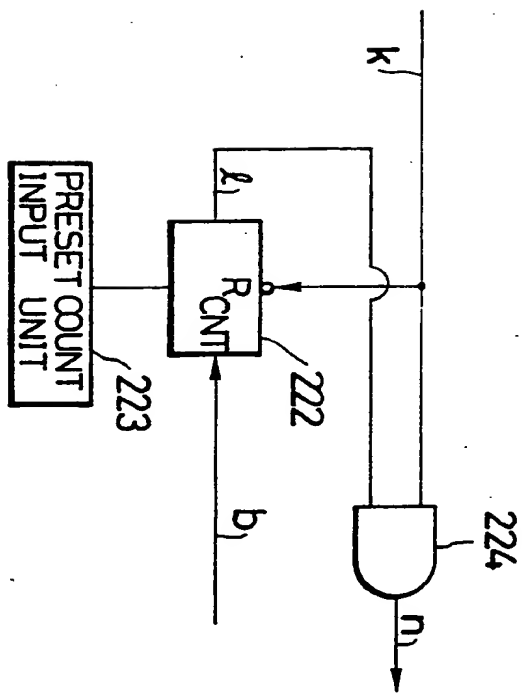


FIG. 26





(19)



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European Patent Office  
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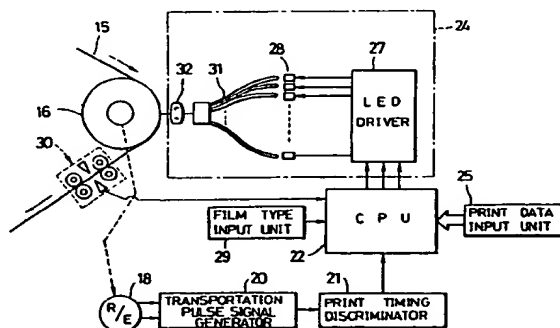
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(54) **Bar-code printing apparatus.**

(57) A bar code printing apparatus includes a rotary encoder (18) for outputting encoder pulses (EP-A, EP-B) in different two phases. A direction in which said film (15) is transported is discriminated on the encoder pulses and indicated by a forward direction pulse indicating or a reverse direction pulse every predetermined length of transportation of the film. A direction discriminating circuit (82) comprises a clock pulse generator (80) for generating clock pulses on a frequency higher than that on which the encoder pulse is output, a first delay circuit (95) for delaying slightly the clock pulse (CL), a latch circuit for latching one of the encoder pulses in synchronism with the clock pulse to output a transportation signal; a second delay circuit for delaying the transportation signal; and two AND gates, each connected to said first and second delay circuits and said latch circuit, for outputting a forward direction pulse and a reverse direction pulse, respectively.

FIG. 1



EP 0 364 934 A3



European  
Patent Office

## EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 89 11 9199

### DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.5)
A	US-A-4 548 492 (KANAOKA ET AL.) * the whole document ** -----	1-3	G 06 K 1/12 G 03 B 27/52 G 03 C 11/02
D	US-A-4 548 492 (& PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 8, no. 207 (M-327)(1644) 21 September 1984 & JP-A-59 096 966 ( FUJI SHASHIN FILM ) 4 June 1984 ) * abstract ** -----		
D,A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 12, no. 354 (P-761)(3201) 22 September 1988 & JP-A-63 106 633 ( KONICA CORP ) 11 May 1988 * abstract ** -----	1-3	
A	DE-A-3 735 646 (KONICA) * abstract; claims 7,8,14; figures 3,11,16 ** -----	1-4	
A	US-A-4 544 259 (KANAOKA ET AL.) * the whole document ** -----	4	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)
			G 06 K G 03 B
Place of search		Date of completion of search	Examiner
The Hague		09 December 91	CHIARIZIA S.J
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T : theory or principle underlying the invention			